



President Vladimir Putin answers journalists' questions on current situation in Ukraine at the Novo-Ogaryovo presidential residence outside Moscow on Tuesday, March 4, 2014. (AP Photo/RIA Novosti, Alexei Nikolsky, Presidential Press Service)

TIM SULLIVAN
VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press
MOSCOW (AP) — Stepping back from the brink of war, Vladimir Putin talked tough but cooled tensions in the Ukraine crisis in his first comments since its president fled, saying Tuesday that Russia has no intention “to fight the Ukrainian people”

but reserved the right to use force. As the Russian president held court in his personal residence, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met with Kiev’s fledgling government and Moscow agreed to sit down with NATO. Although nerves remained on edge in Crimea, with Russian troops firing warning shots to ward off

Ukrainian soldiers, global markets catapulted higher on tentative signals that the Kremlin was not seeking to escalate the conflict. Kerry brought moral support and a \$1 billion aid package to a Ukraine fighting to fend off bankruptcy. Lounging in an arm-chair before Russian tricolor flags, Putin delivered a charac-

teristic performance filled with earthy language, macho swagger and sarcastic jibes, accusing the West of promoting an “unconstitutional coup” in Ukraine. At one point he compared the U.S. role to an experiment with “lab rats.” But the overall message appeared to be one of de-escalation. “It seems to me

(Ukraine) is gradually stabilizing,” Putin said. “We have no enemies in Ukraine. Ukraine is a friendly state.” He tempered those comments by warning that Russia was willing to use “all means at our disposal” to protect ethnic Russians in the country.

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VENEZUELA TO MARK DEATH OF HUGO CHAVEZ

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STOCKS SURGE AFTER UKRAINE TENSIONS EASE

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Venezuela: Chavez everywhere a year after death

C. SHERMAN

E. ABIU LOPEZ

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela

(AP) — It's been a year since former Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's death, yet it often seems that the charismatic leader never left. Chavez's portrait in a red beret is still seen on buildings, pins, action-figure dolls and daily on television. National guard

nounced events to remember Chavez beginning Wednesday morning with a military parade in Caracas followed by a remembrance ceremony at Chavez's mausoleum and capped with the debut of director Oliver Stone's documentary, "My Friend Hugo."

On Tuesday, workers for the state oil company were putting a fresh coat

Maduro, a former bus driver and union leader to be his successor, but the ride since his death has been anything but smooth. Inflation hit 56 percent last year, there are shortages of basic commodities such as cooking oil and flour and one of the highest murder rates in the world keeps people locked inside their homes at night.

Venezuela has been shak-



Two men skate board past a mural of Venezuela's late President Hugo Chavez in downtown Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, March 4, 2014. He's been dead a year, but Chavez's face and voice are everywhere. On Wednesday, the country will mark Chavez's death, who died at age 58 on March 5, 2013.

(AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

troops have used a recording of Chavez reciting poetry played at high volume to disperse protesters in Caracas. Even when the Chavez highlight reel isn't playing, President Nicolas Maduro has been known say he's spotted the man who hand-picked him to lead the country in a little bird or a subway tunnel's rock wall.

Wednesday's anniversary of Chavez's death follows weeks of sometimes violent protests that the government says have left 18 dead. Maduro appears ready to use Chavez's almost mythical status to steady his rule as protesters refuse to leave the streets. Last week, he an-

of paint on Chavez's mausoleum in preparation for those expected to flock to the site.

"For me, he was something great," said Felida Mora, who travels about 20 miles (more than 30 kilometers) to Caracas from Los Teques at least once a month to pray nearby at an improvised tin-roof St. Hugo Chavez Chapel in the 23rd of January slum. The small structure is painted red and white and contains a plaster bust of Chavez beneath a poster of the departed leader and Jesus Christ.

"I have cried a lot for him, more than for my family," Mora said.

Chavez died on March 5, 2013, after a long battle with cancer. He chose

en by nearly a month of protests that have now settled into a pattern: thousands march peacefully through the streets by day, but as night falls smaller groups confront authorities who respond with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Chavez's visage can be found in almost any corner of the capital and portraits of Chavez abound in the countryside as well: the leader wearing a farmer's sombrero, alongside soldiers in his red beret or greeting children or the elderly.

Maduro often calls himself the son of Chavez and when he makes speeches, there's often a photo of Chavez somewhere in the frame. □

AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

Puerto Rico: \$3.5B bond sale Okayed

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico's governor signed a bill Tuesday authorizing the sale of up to \$3.5 billion in general obligation bonds after the U.S. territory's credit rating was recently downgraded to junk status. The move comes as the island prepares to re-enter the bond market to help pay off \$70 billion in public debt, with Barclays, Morgan Stanley and RBC Capital Markets handling the bond sale. U.S. investors had been closely monitoring the bill, which allows them to sue the island's government if needed in New York courts. □

2 die, 102 injured in Carnival festivals

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A Haitian official says that two people have died and 102 others have been injured in Carnival festivities that began Sunday. Patrick Cerilus of Haiti's Civil Protection Office said Tuesday that an early report shows that one man died in a car accident while traveling to the city hosting the party, Gonaives. The other died from excessive drinking.

Officials said the injuries resulted from serious allergies and street scuffles. Celebrations were held in Gonaives to "decentralize" Carnival by holding festivities in different towns each year. □

Canadian dies snorkeling off Caymans

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP) — A 46-year-old Canadian tourist in the Cayman Islands has apparently drowned while snorkeling off a popular beach. The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service has identified the dead vacationer as Timothy Mullin of the Toronto suburb of Etobicoke. He and his mother arrived in the British Caribbean territory Saturday. Investigators say Mullin went snorkeling alone Sunday afternoon in Grand Cayman, the territory's main island. About an hour later, two divers found his motionless body on the ocean floor in about 20 feet of water. □

Police seize pot haul at container port

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Police in Jamaica say they have seized over 2,100 pounds of marijuana and arrested a suspect at a container terminal in the Caribbean island's capital. During a two-day operation at Kingston Container Terminal, officers with the Jamaican force's transnational crime division found about 1,400 pounds of pot stashed inside two shipping containers destined for Mexico. In a statement earlier this week, the Jamaica Constabulary Force said the rest of the marijuana was found in a container bound for the United Kingdom. □

\$1.8M of pot seized near Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Federal agents have seized \$1.8 million worth of marijuana and arrested two suspected smugglers near Puerto Rico. The U.S. Coast Guard said in a statement Tuesday that agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized 750 pounds of pot after spotting a go-fast vessel more than 50 miles off Puerto Rico's southwest coast.

The Coast Guard says one of the suspects is from Jamaica and the other from the U.S. □

US appeals to Asian allies to improve ties

M. PENNINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States appealed Tuesday to its closest Asian allies, Japan and South Korea, to improve their strained relations, saying there's an urgent need to show restraint on "difficult historical issues."

Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel's comments reflect growing angst in Washington over the widening gulf between Tokyo and Seoul over Japan's attitude to its wartime and imperial past.

Deepening that standoff, the nationalist government of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe recently announced it is reviewing evidence on which a landmark 1993 apology over forced prostitution during World War II was based. South Korea's President Park Geun-hye has warned that a review of the apology would only isolate Japan.

In congressional testimony, Russel said dedicated efforts by both parties are needed to calm the tensions. He didn't apportion blame for the strained relations but said historical issues should be handled "in a way that promotes healing." Although numbers vary, some historians say as many as 200,000 women from across Asia, most of them Koreans, were forced to serve as sex slaves, called "comfort women" in Japan, for front-line soldiers during World War II.

Japanese nationalists have long insisted that women in wartime brothels were voluntary prostitutes, not sex slaves, and that Japan has been unfairly criticized for a practice they say is common in any country at war. The dispute between Japan and South Korea has constrained U.S.-backed efforts to forge closer security cooperation among them.

The two nations together host nearly 80,000 American forces. Notwithstanding the animosity. □

Putin talks tough but cools Ukraine rhetoric

Continued from front

Significantly, Russia agreed to a NATO request to hold a special meeting to discuss Ukraine on Wednesday in Brussels, opening up a possible diplomatic channel in a conflict that still holds monumental hazards and uncertainties. While the threat of military confrontation retreated somewhat Tuesday, both sides ramped up economic feuding in their struggle

sia was backpedaling. Gold, the Japanese yen and U.S. treasuries — all seen as safe havens — returned some of their gains. Russia's RTS index, which fell 12 percent on Monday rose 6.2 percent Tuesday. In the U.S., the Dow Jones industrial average was up 1.2 percent.

"Confidence in equity markets has been restored as the standoff between Ukraine and Russia is no

bek air base, fired warning shots into the air as some 300 Ukrainian soldiers, who previously manned the airfield, demanded their jobs back.

As the Ukrainians marched unarmed toward the base, about a dozen Russian soldiers told them not to approach, then fired several shots into the air and said they would shoot the Ukrainians if they continued toward them.

ship in Kiev, which Putin does not recognize, has accused Moscow of a military invasion in Crimea, which the Russian leader denied.

Ukraine's prime minister expressed hope Tuesday that a negotiated solution could be found. Arseniy Yatsenyuk told a news conference that both governments were talking again, albeit slowly.

"We hope that Russia will



Secretary of State John Kerry places a candle and roses atop the Shrine of the Fallen in Kiev, Ukraine, Tuesday, March 4, 2014. The Shrine of the Fallen, located on Institutka Street, honors the fallen Heroes of the "Heavenly Sotnya" (Hundred). Over the course of the EuroMaidan protests, almost 100 protesters were killed by police.

(AP Photo/Kevin Lamarque)

over Ukraine. Russia hit its nearly broke neighbor with a termination of discounts on natural gas, while the U.S. announced a \$1 billion aid package in energy subsidies to Ukraine.

"We are going to do our best (to help you). We are going to try very hard," Kerry said upon arriving in Kiev. "We hope Russia will respect the election that you are going to have."

Ukraine's finance minister, who has said Ukraine needs \$35 billion to get through this year and next, was meeting Tuesday with officials from the International Monetary Fund.

World stock markets, which slumped the previous day, clawed back a large chunk of their losses Tuesday on signs that Rus-

longer on red alert," said David Madden, market analyst at IG.

Russia took over the strategic peninsula of Crimea on Saturday, placing its troops around its ferry, military bases and border posts. Two Ukrainian warships remained anchored in the Crimean port of Sevastopol, blocked from leaving by Russian ships.

"Those unknown people without insignia who have seized administrative buildings and airports ... what we are seeing is a kind of velvet invasion," said Russian military analyst Alexander Golts.

The territory's enduring volatility was put in stark relief Tuesday morning: Russian troops, who had taken control of the Bel-

The Ukrainian troops vowed to hold whatever ground they had left on the Belbek base. "We are worried. But we will not give up our base," said Capt. Nikolai Syomko, an air force radio electrician holding an AK47. He said the soldiers felt they were being held hostage, caught between Russia and Ukraine. There were no other reports of significant armed confrontations Tuesday in Ukraine. Amid the tensions, the Russian military on Tuesday successfully test-fired a Topol intercontinental ballistic missile. The missile, fired from a launch pad in southern Russia, hit a designated target on a range leased by Russia from Kazakhstan.

The new Ukrainian leader-

understand its responsibility in destabilizing the security situation in Europe, that Russia will realize that Ukraine is an independent state and that Russian troops will leave the territory of Ukraine," he said.

In his hour-long meeting with reporters Tuesday, Putin said Russia had no intention of annexing Crimea, while insisting its residents have the right to determine the region's status in a referendum later this month. Crimean tensions, Putin said, "have been settled." He said massive military maneuvers Russia has conducted involving 150,000 troops near Ukraine's border were previously planned and were unrelated to the current situation in Ukraine. □

Obama 2015 budget focuses on boosting economy

ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama sent Congress a \$3.9 trillion bud-

get Tuesday that would funnel money into road building, education and other economy-bolstering programs, handing Demo-

crats a playbook for their election-year themes of creating jobs and narrowing the income gap between rich and poor.

However, the November election and gridlock between the Democratic-run Senate and Republican-led House mean much of Obama's proposals will go nowhere. Many of them were in earlier budgets and ignored.

The blueprint for fiscal 2015, which begins Oct. 1, is laden with populist proposals designed to fortify Obama's social goals. It includes new spending for pre-school education and job training, expanded tax credits for 13.5 million low-income workers without children and more than \$1 trillion in higher taxes over the next decade, mostly for the wealthiest Americans.

"As a country, we've got to make a decision if we're going to protect tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans or if we're going to make smart investments necessary to create jobs and grow our economy and expand opportunity for every American," Obama told students at an elementary school in the nation's capital.

With an eye in part on job creation, money would be spent to upgrade highways and railroads, Veterans Affairs hospitals and national parks. Additional funds would be aimed at clean energy research, creating 45 public-private manufacturing institutes for spurring innovation and training workers whose companies have closed or moved. To help pay for those initiatives and others and trim federal deficits as well, Obama relies in part on higher revenue.

He would raise \$651 billion by limiting tax deductions for the nation's highest earners and with a "Buffett tax" — named for billionaire Warren Buffett — slapping minimum levies on the highest-earning people. Taxes would also be raised on large estates, financial institutions, tobacco products, airline passengers and managers of private investment funds.

"The president has offered perhaps his most irresponsible budget yet," said the Republican leader of

the House, Speaker John Boehner, who has participated in two failed rounds of deficit-reduction talks with Obama since 2011. "American families looking for jobs and opportunity will find only more government in this plan."

"The president's budget is yet another disappointment because it reinforces the status quo," said House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, a Republican. "It would demand that families pay more so Washington can spend more."

The Republican recipe for accelerating economic growth includes cutting taxes or overhauling the entire tax code, and they criticize higher spending as wasteful.

Obama's budget claims to obey overall agency spending limits that were enacted in December after a bipartisan compromise was reached between Ryan and Sen. Patty Murray, a Democrat, the heads of the House and Senate budget committees.

Yet Obama was proposing an additional package of \$55 billion in spending priorities, half for defense and half for domestic programs.

Without that extra money, Pentagon spending be \$496 billion, the same as this year. The Pentagon plans to shrink the Army from 490,000 active-duty soldiers to as few as 440,000 over the coming five years — the smallest since just before World War II.

The White House released fewer budget documents than normal on Tuesday, making it hard to determine exact costs and details of some of those additional spending proposals and others, such as the 2015 price tag for Obama's health care overhaul.

The budget projects a 2015 deficit of \$564 billion and a shortfall this year of \$649 billion. If those come true, it would mark three straight years of annual red ink under \$1 trillion, following four previous years when deficits exceeded that mark every time. □



Copies of President Barack Obama's proposed budget for fiscal 2015 are set out for distribution by the Senate Budget Committee, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 4, 2014. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

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Police investigate assault of transgender teen

GARANCE BURKE
LISA LEFF

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Police on Tuesday were investigating the physical

on Jan. 1 guaranteeing students the right to use the bathrooms and locker rooms that match the gender with which they identify.

case as a hate crime. "He walked himself to the health center, and was obviously very upset when he talked to officers," Hercules police Detective Connie Van Putten said. "He is doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances." But even before the law took effect, the West Contra Costa Unified School District gave transgender students their choice of which school facilities to use, district spokesman Marin Trujillo said. Trujillo would not say how long the assaulted student had been using the boy's restroom but stressed that it would have been permitted even if the law had not been passed.

"We have transgender stu-

dents at our elementary, middle and high schools and have been making these types of accommodations for many years already," he said. Opponents of the new law recently tried to repeal it at the ballot box but failed to gather enough signatures to qualify a referendum for the November election. School officials suspect the campaign may have indirectly played a role in Monday's attack by fueling fears among parents and students, Trujillo said. "We believe as a district, and the superintendent does, that the latest efforts by the petitioners to bring down the law has stirred up a lot of hate and it is showing up in the wrong places," he said. □



Charles Ramsey, president of the West Contra Costa school board, walks out of a boys bathroom where police were investigating reports of a brutal assault of a transgender teen at the Hercules Middle-High School campus in Hercules, Calif., Tuesday, March 4, 2014.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

and sexual assault of a transgender teen who said he was attacked in a bathroom at a suburban San Francisco public school where another transgender student had reported being the target of bullying.

It was the first assault of a transgender student made public since a new California law went into effect

The 15-year-old student assaulted Monday, who is biologically female but identifies as male, told officers he was leaving a boy's bathroom when three teenage boys pushed him inside a large stall and assaulted him, police said.

Police said the attackers reportedly made disparaging remarks to the student, allowing police to treat the

1 dead, 7 injured after U.S. gas leak explodes

BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI
Associated Press

EWING, New Jersey (AP) — A gas leak and explosion in a U.S. neighborhood killed one resident and injured seven workers Tuesday while destroying one home and damaging dozens of others, authorities said. The body was not discovered until late in the day, some distance from the home. Police were working to establish the victim's identity, Lt. Ron Lunetta said, adding that no one else was believed to be missing.

At least 55 units in the housing complex were damaged, police said, including seven that were "pretty much destroyed," Fire Marshal Bill Erney said.

The utility PSE&G said it got a call that a contractor had damaged a gas line. Crews were repairing the line when it exploded.

The force from the explosion buckled windows in an apartment complex nearby, said resident Marsha Brown, and pictures fell from her walls.

"It felt like a bomb," she said. She saw a home engulfed in flames and two utility workers on the lawn with injuries that apparently included broken bones. Three of those victims had to be hospitalized and none of those injuries was considered life-threatening, said Dr. Louis D'Amelio, trauma chief at Capital Regional Medical Center in Trenton. □

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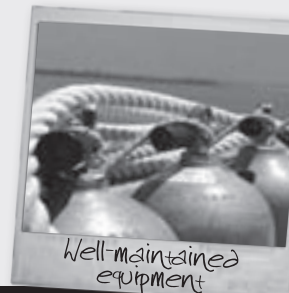
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US lawmakers press White House on pot rules

ALICIA A. CALDWELL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A senior U.S. drug enforcement official urged Congress and others Tuesday not to abandon scientific

concerns over marijuana in favor of public opinion to legalize it, even as the Obama administration takes a hands-off approach in states where voters have made legal its

sale and use. The deputy administrator for the Drug Enforcement Administration, Thomas Harrigan, testified Tuesday before a House oversight panel that easing laws gov-

erning marijuana threatens U.S. institutions.

"We should not abandon science and fact in favor of public opinion," Harrigan said. He echoed previous testimony from James Capra, DEA's chief of operations, who told a Senate panel in January that "going down the path to legalization in this country is reckless and irresponsible." The subcommittee Republican chairman, Rep. John Mica, said the country is "in a state of conflict and chaos right now" over U.S. marijuana policy.

In an election year that could tip the balance of power in Congress, some Republicans have accused the White House of cherry-picking which federal laws to enforce. The administration has said it continues to pursue dangerous criminals, but President Barack Obama himself last month in an interview declared marijuana no more dangerous than alcohol and contrasted it with "harder drugs" including cocaine and metham-

phetamine.

Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana for medical use. To date, only Colorado and Washington have allowed the sale and use of marijuana for recreational use. Several other states, including Oregon and Alaska, are expected to vote on legalizing recreational marijuana within the next year.

Colorado's recreational pot market became legal in January. Officials in Washington are expected to issue the first marijuana business license Wednesday.

Federal law is unambiguous: Marijuana is among the most dangerous drugs, it has no medicinal value and it's illegal in the United States. It's a stance supported generally by the president's Office of National Drug Control Policy. But the Justice Department has made clear it won't interfere with businesses in states where marijuana's sale or use has been made legal so long as everyone adheres to state law and the industry is taxed and regulated. The Treasury and Justice departments last month announced formal guidance for banks, though the financial industry has suggested that banks will remain wary of opening accounts for marijuana businesses. Harrigan, the deputy DEA administrator, stopped short Tuesday of criticizing the administration's enforcement policies. He said the Justice Department memo issued last year by Deputy Attorney General James Coles has had little impact on his agency's operations targeting large-scale drug trafficking organizations. □



Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Deputy Administrator Thomas M. Harrigan, left, and U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado John Walsh, prepare to testify on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 4, 2014, before the House Oversight subcommittee on Government Operations on the Obama Administration's policies on marijuana.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Driver rejects plea offer in lap around Manhattan

NEW YORK (AP) — A Canadian driver facing criminal charges over a 24-minute lap around Manhattan told police he was a "car fanatic" who wanted to break unofficial records for circling the island, but he said the viral video of the stunt was sped up, making it appear he was driving faster than he was, court documents released Tuesday show.

Adam Tang, 32, pleaded not guilty to reckless endangerment, rejecting a plea offer of two months in jail. Tang was arrested after a dashboard-camera video showed a BMW Z4 sports

car making a 26.4-mile (42-kilometer) loop around Manhattan in 24 minutes and 7 seconds. The six-minute clip drew hundreds of thousands of online views. Tang said he sped up the "kind of boring" original footage to fit it to music, according to a police account of his statements after his Sept. 5 arrest. "I believe that I did the run safely. I drove at a high rate of speed, but I was not driving recklessly," Tang said, according to the documents. "I am a car fanatic ... I put a lot of esteem into driving." Tang claimed he never

went over 100 mph (160 kph) and ran only one red light, according to the criminal complaint. The video shows the car zooming close to other cars' bumpers and making other risky maneuvers, a criminal court complaint notes. Tang acknowledged seeing other drivers hit their brakes when they saw him coming, but he said he stopped for several red lights and never cut off any other motorists, according to the account of his statements. "I drive fast all the time," Tang told authorities, adding that he started driving

at age 12 and took a variety of driving courses. He said he'd done the Manhattan loop before at the same speed, just without a camera.

Tang's lawyer, Gregory Gomez, said there was no proof Tang acted recklessly. A Canadian citizen married to an American woman, Tang wants to avoid acquiring any criminal record because of possible immigration complications, Gomez said.

Tang's license has been suspended since his arrest. Gomez sought Tuesday to get it reinstated, but the judge declined. □



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BP to create new business for onshore assets in US

NEW YORK (AP) — BP plans to create a separate, more competitive business to manage its onshore oil and gas assets, including its shale operations, in the contiguous U.S.

BP PLC, which will own the new business, currently oversees the region through its North America Gas group based in Houston.

The business will exclude the non-contiguous states of Alaska and Hawaii.

BP Upstream CEO Lamar McKay said in a statement that the company has reshaped its North America Gas portfolio over the past few years by shedding non-core assets and concentrating on unconventional development such as the Eagle Ford Shale in Texas.

BP said that it is looking to improve competitiveness of the Lower 48 onshore business through faster decision-making, quicker innovation and more efficient cost management. "Our overriding goal is to build a stronger, more competitive and sustainable business that we expect will be a key component of BP's portfolio for years to come," McKay said.

BP said the business will be based at a new location in Houston separate from its Westlake campus. The business will also have a separate management team and separate governance, processes and systems designed to address the region's unique competitive and operating environment. □

US Financial Front:

Southwest's arrival in Atlanta misses expectations

Kelly Yamanouchi

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ATLANTA -- When Southwest Airlines entered the metro Atlanta market -- first in 2011 when it bought AirTran Airways, then a year later when it launched its own flights -- metro travelers excitedly expected airfares to fall and flights to increase.

Southwest, after all, is the nation's low-fare leader, famed for bringing fast growth and dependable service to airports around the country. And when metro Atlantans eagerly awaited "the Southwest effect" at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, Southwest's CEO fed those hopes.

"It's about us bringing more competition, bringing more low fares," Gary Kelly said in 2010 when announcing the AirTran acquisition. "I think (Southwest's daily departures from Atlanta) could grow significantly. ... We'll have more flights than what they (AirTran) have today when all is integrated."

But that's not what happened. And the disappointment over what has occurred vs. what was anticipated and what was asserted has metro travelers who had longed for Southwest's arrival seeking answers.

Airfares have not fallen.

"As a matter of fact, fares seem like they're higher since Southwest has come in," said Chris McGinnis, publisher of travel newsletter The Ticket.

"Fares have definitely gone up and it's been painful," said AirTran frequent flier Joe Leader of Dunwoody, Ga.

And instead of more flights, there are fewer.

AirTran operated a connecting hub at Hartsfield-Jackson of more than 200 daily departures before the merger. But Southwest has "de-hubbed" that operation, focusing less on a massive operation built for connecting flights and more on travelers starting or ending their trips in Atlanta. The

crease in average domestic fares in the country, according to the most recent federal airfare report. In the third quarter of 2013, the average domestic airfare in Atlanta rose to \$432, up 22.6 percent from a year earlier -- a far greater jump than the average 5.1 percent rise in domestic fares

this has caused Southwest to cut flights.

"Fewer departures may lead to a need for fewer gates" at Hartsfield-Jackson, Kelly said. Southwest-AirTran occupy gates on Concourse C and Concourse D, but it's possible Southwest could eventually decide to pull out of



A Southwest Airlines jet taxis past snow-clearing equipment at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, in Linthicum, Md., Monday, March 3, 2014. When Southwest Airlines entered the metro Atlanta market, metro travelers excitedly expected airfares to fall and flights to increase: so what happened?

result: a drop to about 160 daily departures for AirTran and Southwest combined. Kelly said "a steep rise in fuel costs" is to blame for Southwest's higher fares. Southwest said its fuel cost per gallon, including taxes, increased 28 percent between the third quarter of 2010 when it announced the AirTran deal and the fourth quarter of 2013. Other airlines have also seen high fuel costs in recent years and have raised fares.

But Hartsfield-Jackson airfares have gone up so much that Atlanta had the largest year-over-year in-

crease across the nation.

That's because the huge increase in Atlanta fares is not just about fuel costs, analysts said. It can also be attributed to AirTran's "smaller and smaller presence in the market" and the profit-focused policies of Hartsfield-Jackson's dominant carrier Delta Air Lines, said FrequentFlier.com publisher Tim Winship. When a low-cost carrier like AirTran operates on a larger scale, it provides competition that helps keep overall fares in check, he said.

In any case, Kelly said that as fares have climbed, demand has ebbed -- and

Concourse D. "It would be nice to be all consolidated in one terminal," Kelly said. To be all consolidated. That's what Southwest is striving for with AirTran. But the merger has taken longer than many in the metro Atlanta market imagined. More than three years since the acquisition was announced, Southwest's metro Atlanta operation is still about 80 percent AirTran flights and 20 percent Southwest flights, Kelly said. And with 10 months of integration to go until AirTran's final day of operations Dec. 28, "it is not close," the CEO said. □

Cold, gray morning won't stop Mardi Gras revelers



Members of the Krewe of Zulu hold painted coconuts to give to parade-goers, as they march during Mardi Gras day in New Orleans, Tuesday, March 4, 2014. The Zulu parade began on schedule, led by a New Orleans police vanguard on horseback that included Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

(AP Photo/Gerald Herbert)

CHEVEL JOHNSON

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A cold, gray day greeted revelers gathering Tuesday

along parade routes as New Orleans' famed Carnival season headed to a crest with the unabashed celebration of Mardi Gras.

The first street marching groups — including clarinetist Pete Fountain's Half-Fast Walking Club — were to begin their marches along oak-lined St. Charles Avenue and into the busi-

ness district. Later, the floats of the Zulu and Rex parades and hundreds of truck trailers decorated by family and social groups would wind down St. Charles Avenue.

Rain was forecast to begin in the late morning, but revelers were still expected to gather by the tens of thousands in the French Quarter, where the bawdy side of Mardi Gras was expected to be on full display.

Mark Nelson of St. Louis said he would be in the mix even in a downpour. It's his first Mardi Gras.

"That's why God made washing machines," said Nelson, who was sipping on a daiquiri as he enjoyed the sounds of trumpeter Kermit Ruffins and the Barbecue Swingers, who performed at the Lundi Gras festivities Monday along the Mississippi River.

Parades were scheduled to roll throughout south Louisiana and in coastal Mississippi and Alabama, sharing the traditions brought by French colonists in the 18th century.

In Louisiana's bayou parishes, riders on horseback would go from town to town, making merry in what is called the Courir du Mardi Gras.

The merriment must come to a halt at midnight, when the solemn season of Lent begins. □

Judge: Bieber video released with blackouts

CURT ANDERSON

AP Legal Affairs Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Remaining police video clips of Justin Bieber after his January arrest will be made public with sensitive portions blacked out to protect the singer's privacy, a judge ruled Tuesday. Miami-Dade County Judge William Altfeld said two of the five unreleased video clips depict the singer's genitalia during a urine test for drugs at the Miami Beach Police Department. Altfeld agreed with lawyers for Bieber, who turned 20 on Saturday, that the video's airing would be an invasion of privacy that outweighed the public's right to know. "Mr. Bieber's right to privacy is paramount," the judge said. "He has not lost his right to privacy, and that is what is important here."

Separately, the Miami Beach Police Department made public a new set of 18 photos taken shortly after Bieber's arrest, mainly close-ups of his many tattoos — a praying Jesus, a grinning joker's face accompanied by the word "love," a Psalms quotation, and more — and one full-length picture of the singer. Attorneys for The Associated Press and other news outlets had previously suggested any sensitive portions be blacked out and the rest released under Florida's liberal open records laws. Much of the footage was released last week, some of it showing Bieber walking unsteadily during a sobriety test. Bieber has pleaded not guilty to charges of driving under the influence, resisting arrest and driving

with an expired license. He and R&B singer Khalil Amir Sharieff were arrested early on Jan. 23 during what police called an illegal street drag race between a Lamborghini and a Ferrari. Neither has been charged with drag racing.

Bieber attorney Roy Black said he was satisfied with the ruling, as did media attorneys. AP attorney Deanna Shullman said the news organization would never show Bieber's private parts, and Scott Ponce, representing The Miami Herald and CBS television stations, said the ruling was more about protecting the singer from random releases on the Internet.

Black said the three clips to be released without redaction are shot from an angle that is too far away to discern what is going on. □



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Syria speeds up deliveries of its chemical weapons

NICK CUMMING-BRUCE
 © 2014 New York Times

GENEVA - The Syrian government, which missed its original Dec. 31 deadline for shipping its most toxic chemical weapons overseas for destruction, has sped up deliveries recently and has proposed finishing the job by the end of April, according to the international group monitoring the process.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, based in The Hague, reported the new timetable on Tuesday after a meeting of its executive council.

It said that Syria delivered two consignments to the port of Latakia last week and that another "significant" shipment was expected this week. Once it arrives, the group said, Syria will have handed over more than one-third of its 1,200-ton chemical weapons arsenal and 23 percent of its most dangerous Priority 1 chemical agents.

"This is good progress," Sigrid Kaag, the coordinator of the mission to eliminate Syria's arsenal, said Tuesday. "I expect further acceleration and intensification of effort."

Syria was widely criticized internationally for falling far behind the original schedule, and not all countries who belong to the chemical weapons watchdog group were satisfied with the new timetable. "We would say it could do with further improvement," a European diplomat attending the meetings said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Under the original agreement with Syria, brokered by the United States and Russia, all aspects of the

chemical weapons program are to be decommissioned and destroyed by the end of June. To achieve that, the most toxic materials were to be shipped out of Syria by Dec. 31 and the rest by Feb. 6.

Those deadlines, endorsed by the United Nations Security Council, were the price Syria paid to avert a military strike by the United States in response to a chemical attack on a Damascus suburb last August that killed hundreds of people.

Syria cooperated fully with the initial stages of the program, a joint mission of the chemical-weapons watchdog group and the United Nations, and the country made its chemical weapons production facilities inoperable.

But after that, Syria was slow to ship its existing weapons to Latakia. By Feb. 25, only 11 percent of its stockpile had been delivered to the port, and none of its mustard gas, the most deadly agent in its arsenal and the only one that could be put to use quickly without having to be mixed with other materials.

The director general of the watchdog group, Ahmet Uzumcu, told the executive council on Tuesday that Syria had reaffirmed its commitment to shipping the chemical weapons "in a timely manner." But given the delays so far, "It will be important to maintain this newly created momentum," he said.

Syria now proposes to finish shipping all the chemical weapons from 10 of its 12 storage sites by April 13. Two additional weeks will be needed for the final two sites, it says, because the areas around them are not secure. □

In Crimea: Ukraine soldiers caught in the middle

RAUL GALLEGO
 Associated Press

BELBEK, Ukraine (AP) — For Ukrainian soldiers in Crimea, it's a bewildering time.

Ukrainian peninsula in the Black Sea, has not gone as smoothly as Moscow may have expected.

Ukrainian soldiers at Belbek and some other bases

belbek compound still held by Ukrainians. He and his compatriots had gone three days with little sleep, not much information about what was going on



Ukrainian soldiers, left watch as a Russian soldier guards the gate of an infantry base in Perevalne, Ukraine, Tuesday, March 4, 2014.

(AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

Surrounded by the Russian forces who took over much of their military air base in Crimea, some 300 Ukrainian troops made a peaceful attempt Tuesday to retake their airfield at Belbek.

They were driven back by a dozen or so Russian soldiers who fired warning shots into the air and said they would shoot if the Ukrainians did not turn back.

To emphasize the point, sharpshooters took up positions to their left. The marchers retreated.

"In normal life, we would not point guns at each other and would not shoot at each other," said Capt. Severin Vetrovsky, a 31-year-old Ukrainian air force engineer patrolling a different section of the Belbek base.

Russia's seizure of power in Crimea, a strategic

across Crimea have refused to hand over their weapons or switch allegiances, resulting in strange standoffs between armed men surprised to find themselves on opposing sides.

The turmoil in Crimea came after months of street demonstrations in Kiev, Ukraine's capital, drove out the Moscow-supported president and brought in a new government eager to turn away from Russia in favor of closer ties with the 28-nation European Union. At the Belbek base, all that geopolitics turned local. The air base is near Sevastopol, where Russia has leased a port for its Black Sea Fleet since the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union.

Vetrovsky was one of the officers on patrol Tuesday at the section of the Bel-

in the outside world and no clear orders from their commanders.

To signal their defiance, they hung a Ukrainian flag on the main gate of their compound, mostly barracks and offices.

To gather information, they talked with relatives through the fence, staying alert for possible Russian troop movements.

"We are worried. But we will not give up our base," said Capt. Nikolai Syomko, a 36-year-old air force radio electrician, holding an AK-47 and patrolling the back of the compound.

Syomko, who has spent 16 years in the Ukrainian air force, said troops at the base felt as if they were being held hostage, caught between Russia and Ukraine. He said their relatives are extremely worried, especially his mother. □

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Convoy with NATO supplies is attacked in Pakistan

ISMAIL KHAN

© 2014 New York Times

PESHAWAR, Pakistan - Gunmen in the Khyber tribal region in Pakistan, which borders Afghanistan, opened fire Tuesday on a two-truck convoy carrying NATO supplies, killing one driver and wounding two others, a government official said. The official said the attack occurred about 25

miles northwest of Peshawar, the provincial capital of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. A "search operation has been launched to find the culprits," said the official, who requested anonymity. The attack came only days after the governing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, led by Imran Khan, announced that it would end a blockade of NATO

supplies after a court ruling declared it to be illegal. Khan's party imposed the blockade to protest U.S. drone strikes in the tribal region, saying they were killing more innocent people than militants.

The attack also came days after Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, an umbrella organization representing Pakistani

militant groups, announced that it would observe a monthlong cease-fire to allow government-proposed peace talks to start.

The announcement, however, was followed by a spate of bombings, including one on Monday in the district court complex in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, that left 11 people dead and over two dozen

wounded.

Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan has denied involvement in the violence.

A relatively new group, Ahrar-ul-Hind, said it was behind the attack.

Ahrar said that it was fighting for the enforcement of Shariah in Pakistan and that peace talks were not the way to do it. □

Egyptian general moves to formalize presidential bid

DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK

© 2014 New York Times

CAIRO - Field Marshal Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi edged closer on Tuesday to formalizing his all-but-declared candidacy for president, telling a military academy audience that "procedures will be finalized over the coming days."

"I cannot turn my back when the majority wants me to run for president," he said, according to the official news media.

El-Sissi, the defense minister, led the ouster on July 3 of President Mohamed Morsi, Egypt's first fairly elected head of state and a leader of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Although he was little known previously, el-Sissi has ridden a surge of pop-

ularity since the takeover and is now universally expected to seek and win the

presidency, in elections set to take place this spring.

Many Egyptians have em-

braced him as the embodiment of a promise of stability and progress after three

years of turmoil since the ouster of former President Hosni Mubarak.

But the field marshal has also led a brutal crackdown on his predecessors' Islamist supporters, and the suppression of dissent has increasingly extended to liberal activists and intellectuals as well.

Almost nothing is known of el-Sissi's views on any other matters of public policy, including the make-or-break question of how to revive and restructure Egypt's dysfunctional economy. But so far only one other candidate, Hamdeen Sabahi, who also supported the military takeover, has expressed an intention to run, and el-Sissi is by far the favorite. □



This image posted on the official Facebook account of Egypt's military spokesman shows Field Marshal Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi addressing cadets at a military academy in Cairo, Egypt, Tuesday, March 4, 2014. He gave his strongest indication yet that he intends to enter presidential elections, saying in the speech that he "can't turn his back" if Egyptians want him to run.

(AP Photo/via Facebook)

British official's arrest a blow to Cameron government

STEPHEN CASTLE

© 2014 New York Times

LONDON - The arrest of a British government aide accused of possessing "child abuse imagery" has dealt a blow to Prime Minister David Cameron, who has already faced criticism over his choice of advisers.

Government officials confirmed Monday night that the aide, Patrick Rock, 62,

had resigned from a senior post shortly before his arrest on Feb. 13. As deputy head of the policy unit at 10 Downing Street, Rock had been involved in drawing up plans for anti-pornography filters for home Internet users.

Rock, a political appointee rather than a career civil servant, was thought to be in line for the House

of Lords, for his work for the Conservative Party. Rock has known Cameron for more than 20 years, and spent his life in politics, mainly in back-room roles as an adviser to a succession of ministers in Conservative governments.

Since becoming prime minister, Cameron has faced criticism for his choice of advisers, most notably

Andy Coulson, a former editor of the now-defunct News of the World newspaper, who was his communications director. Coulson is currently on trial on charges involving phone hacking and obstructing justice, which he denies.

Cameron has also been accused of recruiting from an exclusive circle and of favoring alumni of his

school, Eton College, several of whom have important positions in his administration.

On Tuesday, a spokesman for Cameron said that a "complaint around alleged inappropriate behavior" had also been made against Rock, although he would not say whether it was connected to the arrest. □

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France tries man for running a site about al-Qaida

PARIS (AP) — A Frenchman who operated what prosecutors described as an al-Qaida propaganda website went on trial on Tuesday on charges of defending and promoting terrorism.

It was the first test of a 2012 law outlawing "cyberjihad" in response to attacks by a radical Islamist who killed seven people in the south of France.

Romain Letellier has been jailed since his arrest in September in the Calvados region of Normandy. The 27-year-old, who adopted the pseudonym Abou Siyad al-Normandy, faces up to five years in prison if convicted.

His long hair pulled back tightly and a thick beard reaching to his chest, Letellier on Tuesday acknowledged acting as an administrator for the site Ansar al-Haqq, which the prosecutor said had 4,000 members. Letellier said he never intended to incite anyone to violence. He faces charges for translating and disseminating al-Qaida's Inspire magazine as well as for his administration of the site, but he told the judge he withheld information on sabotage. "Because then you could really think that we were inciting people technically to do something," Letellier said.

No attacks are linked to the site. French security officials have focused on Internet forums and online activity since the 2012 killings in the south of France by Mohammed Merah. □

US activist says Egypt police assaulted her

SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The co-founder of U.S.-based anti-war group CodePink said Tuesday that Egyptian police detained her at Cairo's international airport when she tried to enter the country on route to the Gaza Strip and treated her roughly, fracturing her shoulder as they handcuffed her before deporting her.

Egyptian officials denied Medea Benjamin was assaulted, saying she had refused to leave despite being told that the border to Gaza is closed because of military operations in the area. However, other members of the same delegation of women activists heading to Gaza were allowed into Egypt, and it was not clear why Benjamin was singled out for deportation.

Speaking from Turkey, where she was deported, Benjamin told The Associated Press she was roughed up by Egyptian airport officials and security agents, who declined to explain why she was barred from entry, telling her only that she was on a blacklist. When she refused to board a plane to Istanbul without first meeting with U.S. embassy officials, the 61-year-old Benjamin said security agents wrestled her to the ground, sat on her back and yanked her arms behind her.

"They put (on) extremely, extremely tight (plastic) handcuffs" on, she said. She said it was then that

her shoulder was dislocated and that a doctor later reset it but told her it was fractured and a ligament was torn. She said the police dragged her across

but I can assure you that our consular officers in Egypt did provide all of the assistance necessary," she said.

Benjamin was heading to

to Gaza.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Badr AbdelAtti said Benjamin had a visa to Egypt, but that officials told her the Gaza border was closed. "She refused to return on the same flight."

Another member of the women's delegation, Anne Wright, arrived in Cairo after Benjamin and was allowed into the country without any problems. Wright told AP that around 20 other members of the 100-member group were already in Egypt.

"We hope all of them are allowed in," she said. "None of them, including Medea, have done anything to trigger deportation."

Benjamin has visited Gaza seven times before, most recently in November 2012. Egyptian authorities have previously denied activists entry to Gaza. The border has now been closed since last month, as troops destroy smuggling tunnels and wage an ongoing offensive against Islamic militants in the Sinai Peninsula. An Egyptian airport official denied Benjamin was assaulted, and said she was deported on orders from a security agency.

The official, who spoke anonymously because he was not authorized to brief reporters, said that after being told to leave the country, Benjamin threatened a senior security official that she would "make a scandal" for them before the world if they deport her. □



In this 2012 photo, riot police arrest U.S. activist Medea Benjamin during a protest march by Bahraini women in Qadam, Bahrain. The co-founder of U.S.-based anti-war group Code Pink says Egyptian police detained her at the airport Tuesday, March 4, 2014 when she tried to enter the country and assaulted her, fracturing her shoulder, as they handcuffed her before deporting her. Benjamin says she was detained for hours at the airport upon arrival on route to the Gaza Strip as part of an international women's delegation.

(AP Photo/Hasan Jamali)

the airport to a plane for Istanbul. "It was as if I was some kind of crazy terrorist," she said.

Benjamin was held in the Cairo airport for nearly 14 hours, half of the time in a cell for deportees.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said consular officers in Egypt were in contact with Benjamin. "Due to privacy considerations, we can't provide additional details,

the Gaza Strip as part of a delegation of women activists to express support for the impoverished territory, subjected to heavy restrictions by Israel and Egypt. Benjamin said she had obtained a visa, had coordinated with the Egyptian embassy in Washington and the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, and that the delegation had coordinated with the Egyptian Foreign Ministry regarding their visit

Chrysler to keep Canada plants without government help

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Chrysler said Tuesday it will take steps to build new cars and minivans in Ontario without incentives from the provincial and federal governments and is withdrawing requests for financial aid for plants in Windsor and Brampton because the projects have become a "political football."

Chrysler now builds minivans at the Windsor plant and big cars in Brampton. Chrysler has been talking to the federal and provincial governments about an incentive package that will help offset higher wages in Canada and allow for a major upgrade to the two plants in Ontario.

The company said that it will start the process of upgrading the Canadian factories with its own capital. But spending the money will depend on Canada's competitiveness with other global factories. "The thing I really regret most about this issue in Canada and province of Ontario is that unfortunately it has been picked up as a political



Sergio Marchionne, Chrysler's CEO, listens to a speech at the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto, in February, 2014. Chrysler said Tuesday it will take steps to build new cars and minivans in Ontario without incentives from the provincial and federal governments.
(AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Chris Young)

football in the country. It is being bandied around as if it has become an ideological albatross," Fiat Chrysler Automobiles chief executive Sergio Marchionne said in Windsor, Ontario on Tuesday. Ontario is facing a possible election this year and opposition Conservative leader Tim Hudak has called Chrysler's aid request corporate welfare. Hudak has said Ontario is being held hostage. "We are surprised by this news because we have had good,

productive discussions with Chrysler," said Jason MacDonald, a spokesman for Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper. "Clearly Chrysler is concerned with the political situation at the provincial level. We remain committed to our automotive policy and the funding announced in the budget to help the sector remain competitive."

Marchionne, a dual Canadian and Italian citizen, said he regrets doing a poor job explaining the competi-

tiveness of manufacturing alternatives that are available to automakers in other jurisdictions. He said last month at the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto that Canada must decide if it wants the plants, and that the United States and Mexico are des-

perate for the investment. Marchionne has declined to disclose financial details, but he has said it would be the single largest investment made by the auto maker since it emerged from bankruptcy five years ago. The Globe and Mail reported he's seeking \$700 million in Canadian government aid as part of a \$3.6 billion investment. Chrysler has 3,242 employees at its Brampton plant which makes the Chrysler 300, Dodge Charger, Dodge Challenger and Lancia Thema. It has 4,663 employees at its Windsor plant that makes the Dodge Grand Caravan and Chrysler Town & Country, the Ram Cargo Van and Lancia Grand Voyager. Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced in the federal budget last month \$500 million in financial aid over two years for Ontario's auto sector. □

Geneva: Automakers cast a wary eye toward Russia

COLLEEN BARRY

JOHN HEILPRIN

AP Business Writers

GENEVA (AP) — Growing tensions over Ukraine have raised the specter of another slowdown in the European auto market, just as carmakers were beginning to count on a modest recovery from a six-year contraction.

Russia's intervention in Ukraine has raised the possibility of sanctions against the country, which has been a key growth market for recession-battered European automakers. On the first day of the Geneva Auto Show on Tuesday, executives cast a wary eye toward the crisis.

"There is not a single doubt in my mind that if

the situation in Russia and the Ukraine remains as tight as it is, or if it worsens from where we are, that it will dampen demand in western Europe," said Fiat Chrysler Automobiles CEO Sergio Marchionne.

Barring a full-blown crisis over Ukraine, Marchionne says he expects to see a modest recovery, but mainly led by "extraneous factors" like fleet sales and not consumer demand.

Before the Ukrainian crisis began, analysts predicted European car sales would grow by 2 percent to 4 percent — which is still 3 million vehicles off the 2007 peak.

"There is always going to be a surprise out there. Ukraine is an example. □

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The hospitality trailer of Aruba Bank on Vondellaan was also a show-stopper offering different giveaways to passersby, besides shade and refreshments to those viewing the parade from its raised platform. Within the parade Aruba Bank sponsored the BWM group, a crowd-pleaser who in conjunction with Coca Cola became the last lap band, inviting spectators to join and allowing them a taste of Carnival music and dance forming the parade's final segment.

Aruba Bank joins the people of Aruba in congratulation SAC, Aruba's Carnival foundation for a job well done on the occasion of the island Diamond Jubilee celebration. □



Exhibition in honor of 200 Years Dutch Kingdom



lie Green) and Evert Koopman will also be exhibited. During the opening the birthday-calendar inspired by the 'Monarchs of Orange' will be presented. This birthday-calendar carries the official logo of the National Committee in The Hague that organizes the celebration related to 200 years of the Dutch Kingdom. Comello BV, one of the largest editors

ORANJESTAD/ZWOLLE - The (royal) exhibition "From King Willem I to King Willem Alexander" with paintings

of Gustave Nouel, Aruban artist living in Deventer, will start on Thursday March 6, 2014 at IQ in Zwolle.

IQ is part of a chain of one of the largest professional galleries in the Netherlands. The exhibition will be

Beauty On The Beach

Claudia Santelli

She is from Caracas, Venezuela. Her first time in Aruba and she is staying at Brickell Bay.

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opened by Jan Franssen, ex-mayor of Zwolle and ex-commissary of the queen/king in Zuid-Holland and since January 1st member of the 'Raad van State'. The Plenipotentiary Minister of Aruba, mr. A. Boekhoudt, has also been invited as a speaker. Besides paintings of Gustave Nouel, artwork of Luc Verschuren and not yet discovered 'pearls', Charles K. Williams, (Char-

of birthday-calendars in the Netherlands has published this special calendar with paintings of the Aruban artist Gustave Nouel. If the buyers so like, the calendar can be signed by the artist during the opening on March 6. During the whole month of March 2014, these special Orange calendars can be purchased at IQ in Zwolle, Marsweg 42, 8013 PD (tel: 038-4605656). □

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tersports such as wave runners, parasailing, tubing and much more. Our desks are located at Casa del Mar (pool deck), Westin Hotel lower lobby, Westin activity center (pool deck), Playa Linda resort next to the juice bar, Holiday Inn Desk and at the Concierge & Pelican Pier desk located between Holiday Inn hotel & Playa Linda Resort. Pelican Nest Restaurant of-

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James scores record 61, Heat beats Bobcats

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James scored a career-high 61 points, breaking Glen Rice's franchise record, and the Miami Heat defeated the Charlotte Bobcats 124-107 on Monday night.

James made 22 of 33 shots from the field, including his first eight 3-point attempts. His career best had been 56 points, on March 20, 2005, for Cleveland against Toronto. Rice scored 56 to set the Heat record on April 15, 1995, against Orlando. James had 24 points at halftime, then added 25 in the third quarter. The record-breaker came with 5:46 left, when James spun through three defenders for a layup that fell as he tumbled to the court.

Al Jefferson had 38 points and 19 rebounds for the Bobcats, his huge night merely an afterthought.

When James checked out with 1:24 left, the entire Heat roster met him near midcourt for high-fives and hugs, and the sellout crowd gave him a standing ovation. A second huge roar followed when he waved to the crowd, as "M-V-P" chants rained down.

Charlotte has allowed the two biggest single-game scoring totals in the NBA this season. Carmelo Anthony had 62 points for the New York Knicks against the Bobcats on Jan. 24.



Miami Heat's LeBron James reacts to the crowd after setting a team record during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Monday, March 3, 2014, against the Charlotte Bobcats. LeBron James scored a team record of 61 points. The Heat won 124-107. Associated Press

Miami was without guard Dwyane Wade, who got a night off to rest.

NETS 96, BULLS 80

NEW YORK (AP) — Jason Collins played the final minutes of a winning home debut with the Brooklyn Nets, who cooled off Chicago.

Finally playing at home more than a week after returning to the NBA as the league's first openly gay player, Collins checked in with 2:41 remaining to a standing ovation from a sellout crowd of 17,732 that included former NBA Commissioner David Stern. Collins committed a foul just 5 seconds later and missed his only shot as the Nets won their third straight.

Collins' original 10-day contract will expire Tuesday and the Nets plan to sign him to a second deal on Wednesday. He has appeared in all five games since he signed on Feb. 23. Deron Williams scored 20 points and Joe Johnson had 19 for the Nets (29-29), who got back to .500 for the first time since they were 2-2 on Nov. 5.

The sloppy Bulls turned it over 28 times, leading to 30 Brooklyn points, and had their four-game winning streak snapped. They had a franchise-low three turnovers in their 109-90 victory over the Knicks on Sunday and had won nine of 10.

Continued on Page 20

MLS prepared to start season without regular refs

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Soccer is prepared to start the new season this weekend even if a labor dispute with its regular referees and other match officials isn't resolved in time. The dispute is between the Professional Soccer Referee Association, which represents MLS referees, as-

sistant referees and fourth officials, and the Professional Referee Organization, which was created by the U.S. Soccer Federation and MLS in 2012 to manage match officials in U.S. and Canadian professional leagues.

The PSRA has filed a pair of unfair labor practice

charges with the National Labor Relations Board, accusing the PRO of bad-faith bargaining and making threats against PSRA members.

PSRA members voted 64-1 last month to authorize a strike.

"We will be opening up this weekend with referees,

and we are absolutely in a position to have a contingency plan in the event that those discussions don't end positively," MLS Commissioner Don Garber said on Tuesday.

"We have so many things that we're gearing up for with our 2014 season. Nothing is going to stop us from

having a strong opening and to continue to grow this league."

PSRA chairman Steve Taylor said there are economic and non-economic issues. "They have not made significant movement," he said of the PRO.

Continued on Page 21

Kings hot form continues with win over Canadiens

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jeff Carter scored his 250th career NHL goal on a power play, Jonathan Quick made 17 saves to remain unbeaten since the Olympic break, and Los Angeles beat Montreal for its fifth straight victory. NHL Capsules Jake Muzzin scored an early goal for the Kings, who have won four games in six days since the break to solidify their playoff position in the Pacific Division, 10 points ahead of fourth-place Vancouver.

Los Angeles hung on to an early lead for its first home victory over the Canadiens since March 8, 2003.

P.K. Subban scored and Peter Budaj stopped 20 shots for Montreal, which had won five of six. The Canadiens opened a four-game West Coast trip with their first regulation loss since Feb. 2.

STARS 3, SABRES 2

DALLAS (AP) — Alex Chiasson broke a third-period tie with his first goal in 13 games, and Lindy Ruff earned his 600th NHL coaching victory with a 3-2 win over his former team, the Buffalo Sabres, on Monday night.

Jamie Benn's slap shot from the blue line deflected off Chiasson and past goalie Jhonas Enroth for a power-play goal at 10:25 of the third. Ruff posted his first 571 wins with the Sabres before joining the Stars.

Defensemen Jordie Benn and Alex Goligoski both scored their third goal of the season for the Stars, who overcame a 1-0 deficit. Benn had been scoreless for 11 games, and Goligoski had gone 48 without a goal.

Tyler Ennis scored twice for Buffalo, with Matt Moulson assisting on both goals. The second got the Sabres even at 3:23 of the third.

Enroth made 36 saves, and Dallas' Kari Lehtonen had 21.

WILD 3, FLAMES 2

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Jared Spurgeon's power-play goal in the third period helped Minnesota beat Calgary and notch its sea-

son-high fifth straight win.

Kyle Brodziak also scored, rookie Darcy Kuemper stopped 21 shots during his 15th start in a row, and the Wild raised their record at home to 22-7-2.

Playing in front of their fans for the first time in 25 days due to the Olympic break, the Wild also improved to 14-4-2 since the new year began while welcoming captain Mikko Koivu back from injury.

Zach Parise gave the Wild some insurance by deflecting a shot past Reto Berra with 5:16 remaining for his 21st goal. Just 77 seconds later, Mark Giordano scored to bring the Flames back within a goal. But Kuemper hung on to raise his record to 11-3-2.

Mike Cammalleri, playing perhaps his last game for the Flames with the NHL trade deadline looming on Wednesday, tied it 1-1 in the second period.

Mikael Granlund had two assists while playing in the NHL for the first time against his brother Markus Granlund.

BLUE JACKETS 2, MAPLE LEAFS 1

TORONTO (AP) — Dalton Prout and Artem Anisimov scored second-period goals, and Columbus held off Toronto.

The Maple Leafs dropped their third straight since the Winter Olympics. They had won seven consecutive at home, their best stretch there since a nine-game run in the 2006-07 season.

Prout, a defenseman, and Anisimov scored less than three minutes apart for Columbus.

Sergei Bobrovsky made 28 saves in the win. The Blue Jackets completed a three-game season sweep of Toronto.

Mason Raymond had the lone goal for Toronto, bringing the Maple Leafs within a goal with 4:15 remaining. Toronto made a late flurry after goalie James Reimer was pulled for an extra skater, but couldn't tie it.

Reimer, in his first start since Jan. 25, made 31 saves. Toronto had won five of six before the Olympic break. □



Montreal Canadiens left winger Travis Moen (32) battles with Los Angeles Kings defenseman Slava Yoykov (26), of Russia, and goalie Jonathan Quick (32) in the final minutes of the third period of an NHL hockey game in Los Angeles, Monday, March 3, 2014. The Kings won, 2-1.

Associated Press

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John, left, and Patrick McEnroe confer during their match against Mike and Bob Bryan in the BNP Paribas Showdown Tennis Tournament on Monday, March 3, 2014, in New York. The Bryans won 8-3.
Associated Press

RACHEL COHEN
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Novak Djokovic beat Andy Murray 6-3, 7-6 (2) in an one-off match at Madison Square Garden on Monday, with the pair mixed the usual exhibition hijinks with some long rallies reminiscent of their epic Grand Slam meetings. A born showman, Djokovic always has fun with the New York crowd at the U.S.

Open. When on a game point Monday he shanked an overhead into the net, the Serb did push-ups in penance. It was the first time playing at the Garden for both. "I was amazed by the size of it," Djokovic said. "With the history in the world of sports and entertainment and music, it's probably the most impressive and most important indoor facility in the world."

Djokovic beats Murray at Madison Square Garden

Murray grimaced more than once after an unforced error as if he were a few miles away at Flushing Meadows. But he also high-fived a fan after hooking in a winner down the line. And the Brit provides plenty of entertainment value simply with his ability to run down nearly every ball. Chasing a drop shot in the first set, Murray wound up all the way on Djokovic's side of the court, bumping into a TV camera along the way. Djokovic went over and jokingly massaged Murray's quad, lest he need a medical timeout. During one changeover, they pulled their phones out of their bags and met at the net to take a couple of selfies. Both tweeted them during the next break. "We might never get the chance to play here again," Murray said. "Want-

ed to enjoy it. Hope everyone who came along had a good time as well. That was the whole point today." And he's in a good mood after his surgically repaired back held up well following four matches in four days in Acapulco last week. There were the obligatory exhibition shenanigans: between-the-legs shots, pulling a kid from the crowd to play a point. In a bit of a twist, Djokovic invited reigning Wimbledon champion Marion Bartoli, who has since retired, from the stands to briefly take his place. Murray welcomed her by launching a serve as hard as he could that had the Frenchwoman ducking. Bartoli then ably exchanged groundstrokes with Murray in high-top canvas sneakers that were more fashion than function.

The BNP Paribas Showdown opened with the Bryan brothers beating the McEnroe brothers 8-3 in doubles. John McEnroe added a little sizzle to the meeting a few months ago when he made some harsh comments about the current state of doubles, suggesting that top players today are the guys who weren't athletic enough to make it in singles. While Bob and Mike Bryan insisted there were no hard feelings, they respectfully disagree with his opinion, and they played Monday with the seriousness of an ATP Tour match. There was no aiming any slams toward John's head. Instead, they picked on Patrick McEnroe's volleys — he doesn't play as much these days as his more-successful older brother. The twins needed 44 minutes to win the single pro set. □

NBA Capsules

Continued from Page 18

GRIZZLIES 110, WIZARDS 104
WASHINGTON (AP) — Tayshaun Prince scored a season-high 21 points and Memphis withstood a late rally to snap Washington's winning streak at six. Zach Randolph added 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who improved to a season-high nine games above .500 and pulled within one game of the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Memphis shot 60 percent after the first quarter and outscored Washington 62-34 in the paint for the game. John Wall scored 23 points and Bradley Beal had 21 for the Wizards. Washington had answered a challenge by winning its first three games after losing starting forward Nene to a knee injury, but this time the rotation was also missing forwards Kevin Seraphin (sore right knee) and Martell Webster (sore back).
TIMBERWOLVES 132, NUGGETS 128
DENVER (AP) — Kevin Love scored 33 points and tied



Brooklyn Nets' Paul Pierce, right, knocks the ball away from Chicago Bulls' Carlos Boozer during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 3, 2014, in New York.
Associated Press

a season high with 19 rebounds for his NBA-best 50th double-double this season, and Minnesota beat skidding Denver for its third win in a row. Love topped 30 points for the 11th time in his last 14 starts, helping the Timberwolves wrap up a 4-1 trip out west. The Nuggets got a boost from the return of Ty Lawson, who scored a season-high 31 points with 11 assists in his first game since breaking his left rib Feb. 8 at Detroit. But it wasn't

enough to reverse their sagging fortunes. Denver lost its sixth straight and has dropped 11 of 12 overall. Kevin Martin added 22 points for the Timberwolves, including four clutch free throws in the final 11.7 seconds. Minnesota finished with a huge advantage at the foul line, making 52 of 64 (81.3 percent) to Denver's 16 of 25 (64 percent).
LAKERS 107, TRAIL BLAZERS 106
PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Kent Bazemore threw an alley-oop to Wesley John-

son for the go-ahead dunk with 6.9 seconds left to lift Los Angeles over Portland. Pau Gasol scored 22 points and the Lakers won their second straight, snapping the Trail Blazers' five-game winning streak. Jodie Meeks added 21 points. The Lakers led by 15 in the first quarter and pushed the lead to 97-86 in the fourth, but Wesley Matthews' fadeaway jumper tied it at 105 with 1:10 left. Damian Lillard hit one of two free throws to give Portland its first lead since the first quarter. But the officials reversed a possession call with 7.1 seconds left, giving the ball to the Lakers. Bazemore lobbed to Johnson for the dunk and Lillard missed a 3-pointer as time ran out. Robin Lopez had 19 points and 16 rebounds for the Blazers.
BUCKS 114, JAZZ 88
MILWAUKEE (AP) — Ersan Ilyasova scored a season-high 31 points on 13-of-14 shooting, and Milwaukee hit a blistering 57 percent from the field to beat Utah. Zaza Pachulia added 14 points, six rebounds and five assists, and five Bucks scored in double digits.

The NBA's worst team improved to 12-47 and enjoyed a rare breather at home. Enes Kanter had 27 points to lead Utah, mired by a mistake-prone third quarter in which the Bucks regularly led by at least 20. NBA Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar took in some of the action. Drafted No. 1 overall by the Bucks in 1969, Abdul-Jabbar was in town to promote a tourism ad for the state of Wisconsin that played off his acting role in the movie "Airplane."
PISTONS 96, KNICKS 85
AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — Andre Drummond had 17 points and a career-high 26 rebounds as Detroit surged past New York in a matchup of slumping teams. The Pistons had lost four straight and seven of eight. New York has dropped seven straight and 13 of 15. Carmelo Anthony scored 10 of his 28 points in a first quarter in which the Knicks led by as much as 14. Detroit reserves Rodney Stuckey and Will Bynum each scored 16 points, helping their team's bench outscore New York's 36-7. □



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Tiger begins road to Augusta with a limp

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP) —

The last time Tiger Woods quit in the middle of a round because of an injury, he won his next tournament. And then he followed that with his highest score ever in the Masters, the ultimate measure of Woods these days. Now what?

Making predictions about the world's No. 1 player is like gauging the wind at Amen Corner. You're bound to get it wrong for three reasons:

—Only an athlete knows how badly he is hurt.

—Golf is too unpredictable under the best of times.

—He's Tiger Woods.

Television analyst Johnny Miller got it right at the start of the year when he was talking about which players might have big years. He stopped short of naming a list of players because of reason No. 2. And then he added this nugget:

"It was pretty easy to predict Tiger there for a while," Miller said.

These days, about all anyone can safely predict about Woods is that he'll

wear a red shirt on Sunday.

Assuming he makes it to Sunday.

In two starts on the PGA Tour this year, Woods is measured by letters instead of numbers. He had an "MDF" at Torrey Pines, which is the tour's acronym for players who miss the 54-hole cut. And he had a "WD" at the Honda Classic when he withdrew after 13 holes in the final round on Sunday.

The question now is how long he will be MIA.

The leaders were finishing up the front nine when attention shifted from the golf course to the PGA National parking lot that suddenly was swarming with police. About two dozen reporters and photographers were waiting for Woods. He finally showed up in a white passenger van, changed out of his shoes and then was driven off in a black Mercedes-Benz to his home just north on Jupiter Island.

Just like last time — just like always — only Woods knows the amount of the pain and the degree of the injury.

He said through spokesman Glenn Greenspan

figure out why that's happening. Obviously, there's a lot more competition than there ever was. Viewers have more alternatives. We need not to fight that but accept it and address it," Garber said. "Our games have been scheduled all over the week. It's been difficult even if you work in the league office to know what time and what day a game is taking place. So our new agreements will be very, very, very focused in terms of a specific date and time." □



Tiger Woods tees off on the third hole during the final round of the Honda Classic golf tournament on Sunday, March 2, 2014, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Associated Press

that he felt "lower back problems with spasms" as he was warming up Sunday morning. On the third hole, he hit a tee shot so far to the right that it wound up in a water hazard to the left of the sixth green. And when he played the sixth hole, he pulled his tee shot into the water. Six holes into the final round, Woods already was 5 over for the day and 12 shots out of the lead. He said he would get treatment every day to "calm it down." As for playing next week at Doral, he said he would wait until Thursday to see how it feels.

The Blue Monster is more blue than ever after a redesign ordered by new owner Donald Trump. Woods is the defending champion at the Cadillac Championship, though the course where he has won four times is not what it used to be.

But this isn't about whether he can play Doral or Bay Hill two weeks later, or how he will fare at Augusta National next month.

The injuries are starting to pile up since he returned from the chaos in his personal life.

Woods had two WDs on his professional record through 2009. One was at Pebble Beach in 1998 when he chose not to return after a seven-month rain delay to finish. The other was in 2006 at Riviera when he made the cut and then withdrew the next morning with the flu. Now he has four in the last five years.

He left after six holes of the final round at The Players Championship in 2010 because of a bulging disk in his neck. He went into the final round 10 shots out of the lead. A year later, he quit after nine holes and 42 strokes at The Players because of a leg injury. He didn't return for three months.

Woods' didn't finish the final round at Doral in 2012 because of his Achilles tendon (and then he won at Bay Hill two weeks later). And now he starts out 2014 by having to pull out

of another tournament.

That's five straight years when a season has been interrupted by injury. He didn't withdraw last year, though he missed his own AT&T National and a scheduled start at The Greenbrier Classic because of a left elbow strain.

Sunday at the Honda Classic was not his first issue with lower back pain. He said the feelings were the same as they were at The Barclays last summer, when he dropped to his knees after one shot in the final round. He finished out that round in a tie for second, one shot behind Adam Scott.

He didn't finish among the top 10 the rest of the FedEx Cup playoffs. Then again, he went 4-1 and earned the most points at the Presidents Cup. He tied for third in Turkey.

He lost in a playoff to Zach Johnson at his 18-man World Challenge. How much did the back pain linger? Only Woods knows. □

MLS

Continued from Page 18

Answering questions from reporters and fans during a season kickoff session, Garber said increasing the league's television ratings is a priority. Viewers for national television broadcasts during the regular season dropped from an average of 180,000 viewers in 2012 to 170,000 last year, according to Nielsen Media Research. "So we need to

Blood, Salt and Tears

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

President John F. Kennedy said, "All of us have in our veins the exact same percentage of salt in our blood that exists in the ocean, and, therefore, we have salt in our blood, in our sweat, in our tears. We are tied to the ocean. And when we go back to the sea -- whether it is to sail or to watch it -- we are going back from whence we came."

Salt is the spark plug of our body. Although eating an excess of salt is associated with high blood pressure, not having enough salt can cause hypo-tension or low blood pressure which results in dizziness or loss of consciousness. Salt is essential for the prevention of muscle cramps, maintaining sexuality, preventing varicose veins and the salt in our bones is help them stay firm. In studies on salt and blood pressure processed table salt was used and researchers did not adjust for things like, high alcohol consumption, high body mass index, low potassium excretion, and dehydration. Unrefined sea salt is a healthier choice than common table salt. Natural sea salt contains minerals that the body needs.

High blood pressure rarely has symptoms. Blood pressure values can be pushed higher by pain, medications or anxiety, including the stress of visiting the doctor. Have your pressure taken while lying down in a stress-free environment. Blood pressure (BP) comes in two numbers. The high number is the pressure of the heart pumping your blood. The low number is the pressure your blood pushes against on the walls of your arteries when your heart is "resting." Normal blood pressure should range between 100/70 to 120/80. If your BP is higher, you have a greater risk of developing problems with your heart and or arteries.

"Standard" treatment for blood

pressure problems is pharmaceuticals. Studies have shown that taking blood pressure lowering drugs can cause side effects, like impotence and an increased risk for heart disease, just what you are trying to avoid. The World Health Organization has listed hypertension, or high blood pressure, as one of the conditions treated effectively by acupuncture.

In many cases high blood pressure can controlled through changes in diet and lifestyle. Lifestyle factors include caffeine or alcohol intake, stress, lack of exercise, smoking and body weight. Dietary problems include; high sugar, high saturated fat and insufficient magnesium, vitamin C and healthy fats. Some people do not excrete sodium. Diuretics can make the problem worse by also lowering potassium. Natural sea salt, not table salt, will not harm you if your intake of potassium and water is balanced. Fresh fruit is a good source of potassium. Drinking mineral water is critical for nearly every bodily function. Dietary supplements can also provide support, but check your personal needs with a clinical nutritionist. If this is not enough, check for toxins with a hair analysis test contributing to these and other health problems.

Get The Point! Blood pressure problems are more than an excess of salt. Identifying imbalances and counseling on diet and lifestyle can go a long way. In our home by the beautiful Caribbean Sea, there are no chemicals in our kitchen. We drink plenty of mineral water, use only natural sea salt, pressure lowering, fresh garlic, good omega oils like virgin olive oil, and gladly cry salty tears while cutting our onions to flavor our food. The facts on salt are another of the many dietary misconceptions you have heard. Call so we



can help you put the spark back in your plugs.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site:

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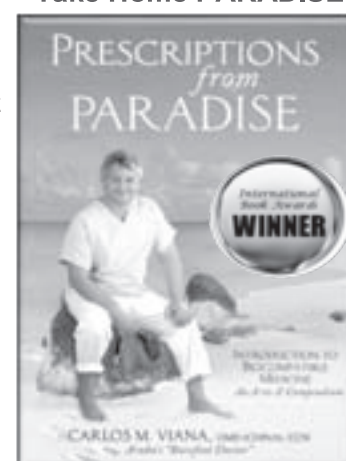
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Reports: Facebook looks to buy solar drone company

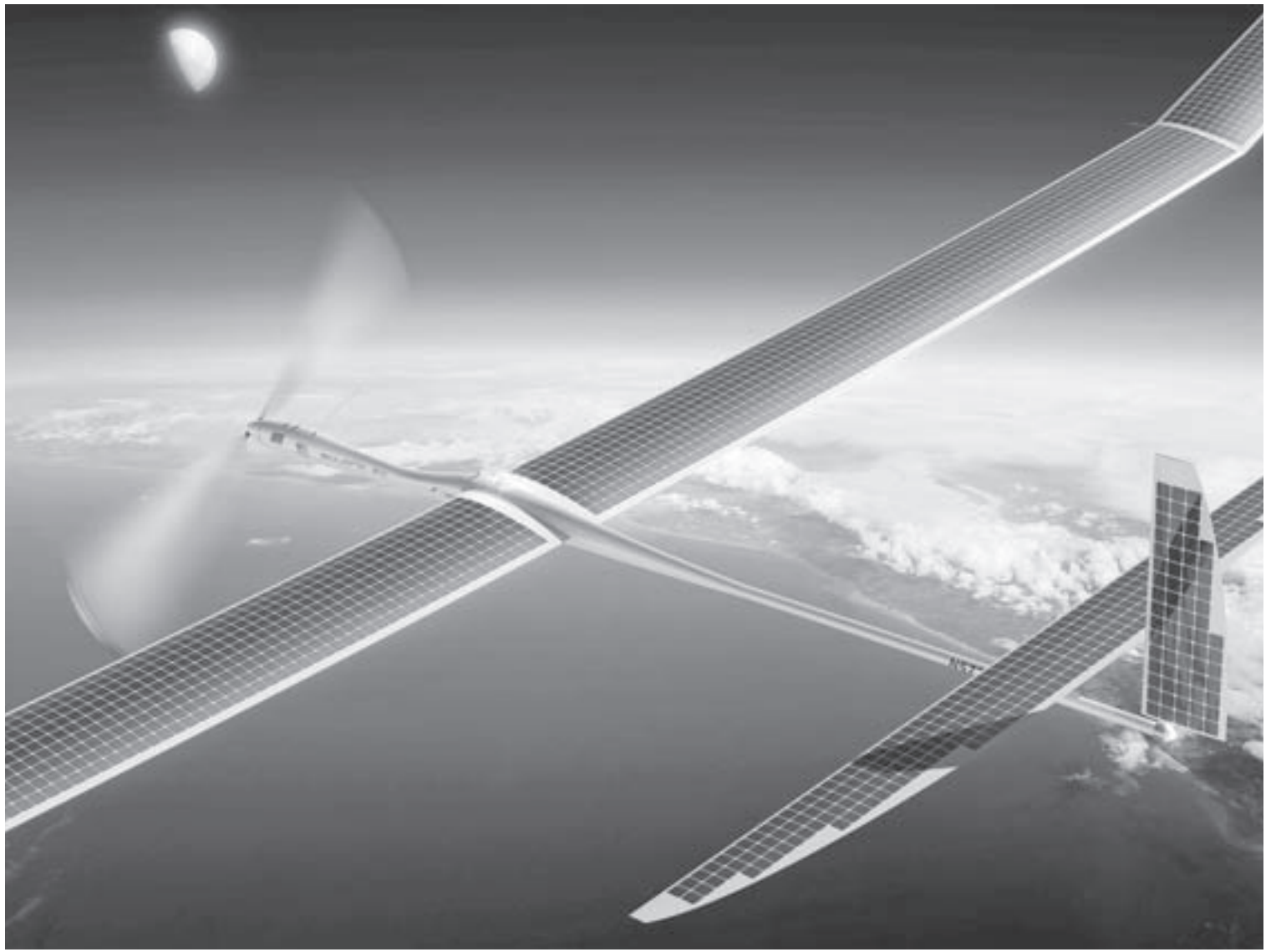
NEW YORK (AP) — Facebook is in talks to buy Titan Aerospace, a maker of solar-powered drones, to step up its efforts to provide Internet access to remote parts of the world, according to reports from technology blog Techcrunch and financial news outlet CNBC.

Both websites cited anonymous sources who are familiar with the deal and put a purchase price at \$60 million.

Facebook spokesman Tucker Bounds said Tuesday that the company does not comment on rumors and speculation. Titan Aerospace representatives did not respond to requests for comment.

If Facebook does buy Titan Aerospace, the purchase could fit with the goals of CEO Mark Zuckerberg's Internet.org project. The Facebook-led partnership, which includes Qualcomm Inc., Samsung and Nokia, was launched last summer and aims to connect the more than 5 billion of the world's 7 billion people who are not already online. Presumably, Internet.org could use Titan's solar-powered atmospheric satellites to serve as airborne wireless access points.

Google Inc., which is not a part of the Internet.org effort, launched a similar undertaking earlier this year with the goal of getting everyone on Earth online.



This undated image released by Titan Aerospace shows the company's Solara 50 aircraft. Facebook is in talks to buy Titan Aerospace, a maker of solar-powered drones, to step up its efforts to provide Internet access to remote parts of the world, according to reports released Tuesday, March 4, 2014.

Associated Press

Called Project Loon, the effort launched Internet-beaming antennas aloft on giant helium balloons.

Titan's drone-like atmospheric satellites, which are still in development and not yet commercially available, can stay in the air for as long as five years, ac-

cording to reports. Titan's website cites a wide range of uses for the drones, including atmospheric and weather monitoring, disaster response and voice and data communications. The last two could be reasons for Facebook's interest in Titan.

But Zuckerberg said last week at the Mobile World Congress wireless show that access connectivity is not the main obstacle to getting the world online. He said more than 80 percent of the world's population live in areas with 2G or 3G wireless access. More

important, he said, is giving people a reason to connect: basic financial services, access to health care information and educational materials. Facebook's acquisition of a company called Onavo last fall also fits with Internet.org's vision. □

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Stocks surge as Ukraine tensions ease

JOSHUA FREED
AP Business Writer

Relieved investors sent stocks sharply higher on Tuesday after Russia pulled troops back from the border of Ukraine.

The rally pushed the Standard & Poor's 500 index to an all-time high, erasing steep losses from Monday, when investors feared that the confrontation between Russia and Ukraine would escalate or even lead to a

ruptions in the Black Sea, a major transit point for oil. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.68 percent from 2.60 percent late Monday.

In another sign of a greater appetite for risk, the Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks set another all-time high after posting the biggest percentage gains of the major U.S. stock indexes. The Russell jumped 32.29 points, or 2.7 percent,

Wall Street hates uncertainty, and on Monday that's all there was. So investors were relieved when Putin appeared to back down on Tuesday.

"I think the reaction today is probably more hopeful than rational," said Brad McMillan, Chief Investment Officer for Commonwealth Financial. McMillan noted that Putin made his point with Ukraine just a week after the Sochi Olympics



Chairman of Horizons ETFs' parent company, Mirae Asset Global Investments, Hyeon Joo Park, second from right, is applauded as he rings the New York Stock Exchange opening bell, Tuesday, March 4, 2014. Relieved investors sent stocks sharply higher Tuesday after Russia pulled troops back from the border of Ukraine. The rally erased steep losses from Monday caused by fears an escalating conflict.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

war.

Traders were relieved when Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered troops participating in military exercises near Ukraine to return to their bases.

The S&P 500 rose 28.18 points, or 1.53 percent, to close at 1,873.91. It was the biggest gain for the benchmark index since October. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 227.85 points, or 1.41 percent, to 16,395.88. The Nasdaq composite rose 74.67 points, or 1.75 percent, to 4,351.97.

As investors moved back to riskier assets, prices fell for safe-play investments like bonds and gold. Oil prices also fell as the immediate threat of economic sanctions on Russia, a major oil exporter, eased. Traders had also been worried about transportation dis-

to 1,208.65. It is now up almost 3.9 percent this year. The two-day rout and rally was just the latest twist in a volatile year for stocks, which fell almost 6 percent just last month and have since recovered to set all-time highs in recent days. So what is an investor supposed to do in the face of this volatility?

"I think maybe you take a powder. Maybe take some positions off the table, and you hedge yourself a little but, for the chance that if it does go the other way and there is a downturn," said Stephen J. Carl, head equity trader at The Williams Capital Group.

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine threatened to destabilize Europe and upset oil markets. And it wasn't clear which countries might be drawn into the conflict if it got worse.

ended. Hosting the Olympics was a way for Putin to show that Russia was open for business, but the conflict with Ukraine threw that away, McMillan said.

Stock markets in Europe, including Moscow, and Asia recouped much of Monday's losses. Indexes in France and Germany each rose 2.5 percent, and the FTSE 100 in Britain rose 1.7 percent.

The gains were extraordinarily broad. Five stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange. All 10 industry sectors in the S&P 500 average rose.

Among stocks making big moves:

— RadioShack plunged 47 cents, or 17 percent, to close at \$2.25 after reporting a wider quarterly loss and saying it will close as many as 1,100 stores. □

Former NAACP head joins a tech venture capital firm

MARTHA MENDOZA
AP National Writer

SAN JOSE, California (AP) — Just months after stepping down as head of the largest U.S. civil rights organization, former NAACP President Benjamin Jealous is changing his career from political activist to venture capitalist, a switch he hopes will help further his goal of growing opportunities for blacks and Latinos in the booming tech economy.

Jealous, 41, was widely credited with improving the finances, donor base and outreach of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the 105-old organization founded in part to fight the practice of lynching and that played a key role in the legal battle against segregation during the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 60s.

Jealous announced his departure from the NAACP in September 2013, though he said he will never completely drop out of politics. The Northern California native and self-confessed computer geek will be joining entrepreneurs Mitchell Kapor and Fredda Kapor Klein at their venture capital investment firm that backs information technology startups committed to making a positive social impact.

"My life's mission has been leveling the playing field and closing gaps in opportunity and success," Jealous told The Associated Press before Tuesday's announcement. "I'm excited about trying a different approach." Jealous said the opportunity to work with Kapor Capital puts him on the cutting edge of helping people who are slipping further behind as the U.S. economy grows.

The divide is greater in the Silicon Valley than the rest of the country. Blacks and Latinos, already earning about half as much as whites and Asians, saw per capita income drop 5 percent for blacks in the past two years, and 2 percent for Latinos, according to an annual Silicon Valley Index.

The disparity is clear when it comes to jobs as well. Just 4 percent of the nation's 1.1 million software developers are black, and 5 percent are Latino, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"The Silicon Valley holds itself up as a meritocracy, but it's actually embarrassingly un-diverse," said Fredda Kapor Klein. "We expect Ben is going to help us change that."

Fred Turner, who studies culture and technology as an associate professor at Stanford University, said it's "fascinating that a person of his caliber and experience would move into this space."

Turner said there's a deep question going on in the U.S. about how to accomplish positive social change.

"In the Silicon Valley they approach it entrepreneurially, in Washington they approach it politically," Turner said. "These are two very different modes."

Kapor Capital's portfolio currently has 46 percent of its investments in firms with founders who are women and people of color from an underrepresented background. Mitch Kapor said Jealous' ability and understanding about how to make a social impact will be a huge asset to the firm's investment goals.

Kapor said he looks for companies that are "closing gaps of access and opportunity for underserved communities or involve a disruptive democratization of a sector."

These include Pigeon.ly, a startup that offers low-cost phone and photo sharing for prisoners and their families outside, and Regalii, an international remittance platform that helps immigrants send money to their families in Latin America. □

American home prices rose at solid pace in January

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. home prices rose in January after three months of declines as a tight supply of properties likely supported prices despite slower sales.

Real estate data provider CoreLogic said Tuesday that prices rose 0.9 percent in January after dipping 0.1 percent in December. Over the past 12 months,

home prices have risen 12 percent, the biggest year-over-year gain in more than eight years.

Such outside price gains might not continue much longer, however. Paul Diggle, an economist at Capital Economics, notes that January's price gains reflect conditions several months ago, when buyers first made offers. The supply of available homes was smaller than it is now, and it

helped lift prices. The sales were completed in January.

Since then, more homes have come on the market while sales have slowed. That trend has modestly boosted the supply of homes and "points to a slowdown in price gains later this year," Diggle said. Diggle, like most other economists, foresees year-over-year price gains of below 10 percent in the

coming months.

CoreLogic's price figures aren't adjusted for seasonal patterns, such as winter weather, which can depress sales. Snowstorms and low temperatures contributed to a sharp drop in sales of existing homes in January. The National Association of Realtors said sales plunged to their lowest level in 18 months.

The harsh winter weather has discouraged many

Americans from house-hunting. And the average rate on a 30-year mortgage is about a percentage point higher than it was last spring, which means buying costs have risen. Those factors have weighed on the housing market. Economists think the housing recovery could pick up once the spring buying season begins, though likely at a slower pace than last year. □

Dish, Disney deal envisions Internet-delivered TV

RYAN NAKASHIMA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dish Network and Disney have reached a landmark deal that envisions the day when Dish will offer a Netflix-like TV service to people who'd rather stream TV over the Internet than put a satellite receiver on their roof. The deal announced late Monday paves the way for Dish to offer live local broadcasts from ABC TV stations and programming from ABC Family, Disney Channel, ESPN and ESPN2 over mobile devices, set-top boxes and other means, similar to how Netflix's video streams are delivered today.

No start date for such a service was announced. It is likely that Dish will have to cut similar deals with oth-

er programmers to make such a service attractive. A Dish spokesman refused to speculate on what the offering would cost.

As part of the new rights deal, Dish Network Corp. agreed to disable — for three days after the initial broadcast — a function on its Hopper digital video recorders that allows people to automatically record and strip out commercials from prime-time weeknight programming. But that's only for programs on ABC, which is owned by The Walt Disney Co.

Dish CEO Joseph Clayton said in a statement the deal was "about predicting the future of television." Anne Sweeney, co-chairman of Disney Media Networks, said in a statement that both Disney CEO Bob



Dish Network Corp. satellite dishes are attached to a home in Buffalo, N.Y. Dish Network and Disney have reached a landmark deal Tuesday, March 4, 2014, that envisions the day when Dish will offer a Netflix-like TV service to people who'd rather stream TV over the Internet than put a satellite receiver on their roof. (AP Photo/David Duprey)

Iger and Dish's majority shareholder, Charlie Ergen,

were directly involved in carving out "one of the

most complex and comprehensive" deals ever. □

RadioShack plans to close up to 1,100 US stores

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — RadioShack plans to close up to 1,100 of its underperforming stores in the U.S. and reported a wider loss for its fourth quarter as customer traffic slowed during the critical holiday season. Its stock tumbled almost 21 percent in premarket trading Tuesday.

CEO Joseph Magnacca said in statement that the planned store closings would leave RadioShack with more than 4,000 U.S. stores, including more than 900 dealer franchise locations. The company didn't immediately identify what stores are being closed.

The electronics retailer said that the stores to be closed are being selected

based on location, area demographics, lease duration and financial performance.

Magnacca said the latest quarter's performance was also hurt by increased promotional activity — particularly in consumer electronics; a very soft mobility marketplace and a few operational issues.

For the period ended Dec. 31, RadioShack Corp. lost \$191.4 million, or \$1.90 per share. That compares with a loss of \$63.3 million, or 63 cents per share, a year earlier.

Excluding certain items, the Fort Worth, Texas, company lost \$1.29 per share. Analysts surveyed by FactSet expected a loss of 16

cents per share.

Revenue declined to \$935.4 million from \$1.17 billion. Wall Street was looking for higher revenue of \$1.12 billion.

Sales at stores open at least a year fell 19 percent on weaker traffic and the soft performance of its mobility business.

This figure is a key gauge of a retailer's health because it excludes results from locations recently opened or closed.

RadioShack reported a full-year loss of \$400.2 million, or \$3.97 per share. In the prior year it lost \$139.4 million, or \$1.39 per share. Its adjusted loss was \$3.04 per share. Annual revenue declined 10 percent to

\$3.43 billion from \$3.83 billion. Shares of RadioShack fell 57 cents, or 21 percent,

to \$2.15 in premarket trading about 90 minutes before the market open. □

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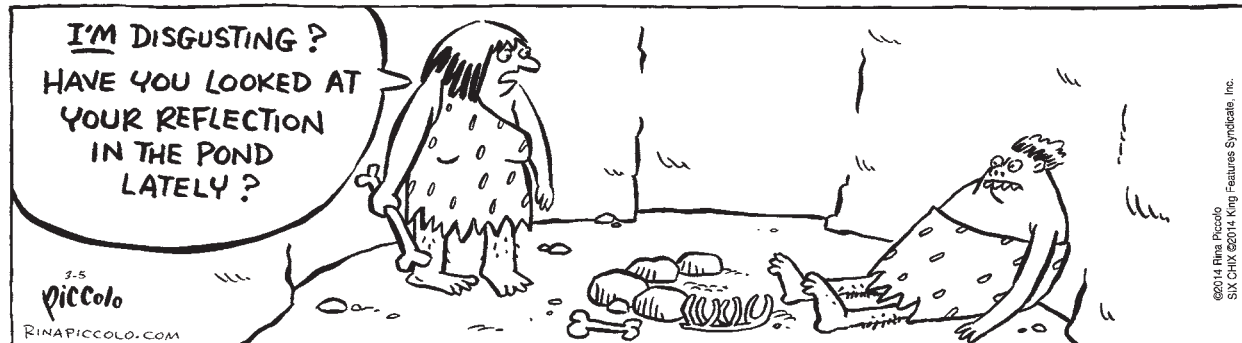
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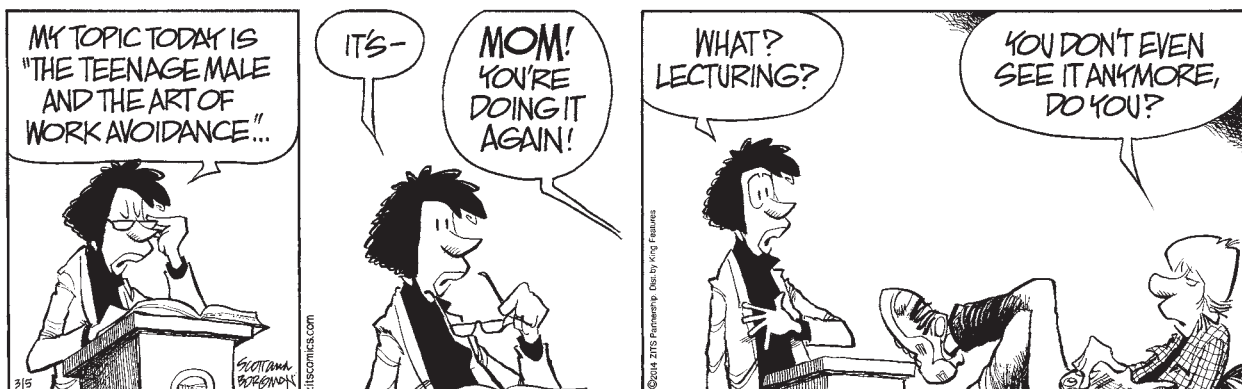
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 5 | 9 | 8 | | | |
| | | 3 | | | | 7 | | |
| | 1 | 2 | | | | 6 | 8 | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | 5 |
| 4 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | 5 | 7 | 4 | | 3 | 9 | 6 | |
| | | | 1 | 7 | | | | |
| | | 4 | | | | 2 | | |
| | | 5 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| 9 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 2 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 |

ACROSS

- In the __; sheltered from the sun
- Disassemble
- Obstacle
- Belly button
- Uttered
- Fairy __; fable
- "Wanted: Dead or "
- Egg on
- Actor's part
- Foot doctor's specialty
- Humiliates
- Make a tiny cut
- Ridiculous
- Streak of light across the sky
- Burn with liquid
- Pennsylvania or Fifth: abbr.
- Contradict an argument
- Full of foliage
- Twelve months
- Actor Matt __
- Urgent
- Distorted; awry
- Attracted; drew
- TV room, often
- Baby chicken's sound
- Signs of life felt in the wrists
- Choices
- Neighbor of Algeria
- Bricklayer's plaster
- Opposite of hunger
- __ code; phone number's start
- Frosted mountain
- See eye to eye
- Make well
- Unfriendly
- Royal
- __ together; combines
- Sacred
- Like a wry sense of humor

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | | | | | 15 | | | | 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | | | 18 | | | | 19 | | | |
| 20 | | | | | 21 | | | 22 | 23 | | | |
| | | | 24 | | | | 25 | | | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | 29 | | | | | | |
| 30 | | | 31 | | 32 | | | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | |
| 37 | | 38 | | 39 | | | 40 | | 41 | | | |
| 42 | | | 43 | | 44 | | | 45 | | 46 | | |
| | | | 47 | | 48 | | | 49 | | 50 | | |
| 51 | 52 | 53 | | | | | 54 | | | | | |
| 55 | | | | | | | 56 | | | 57 | 58 | 59 |
| 60 | | | | | | 61 | 62 | | | 63 | | |
| 64 | | | | | | 65 | | | | 66 | | |
| 67 | | | | | | 68 | | | | 69 | | |

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/5/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

| | | |
|--------|-----------|--------|
| TEA | SAGES | INTO |
| OATS | ELOPE | NOUN |
| PROP | ROBIN | SORT |
| | SPECIFICS | INFO |
| | COAT | ITS |
| ASWIRL | SABOTAGE | |
| SPEED | FILLY | MOM |
| HUES | BUGLE | SARI |
| END | NANNY | HAZEL |
| SKY | JACKS | REMEDY |
| | ABC | HALO |
| AGOG | ASSAILANT | |
| LONG | RILLS | NEAT |
| MADE | ALIVE | SAKE |
| SLED | TOTED | RED |

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3/5/14

- Kathmandu's nation
- "Slow down, Trigger!"
- Simpleton
- Add to; adorn
- Stick around
- Nebraska city
- __ over; studied intently
- __ on; trample
- Like a garden after the rain
- Collapsed
- Consequently
- Close tightly
- Peddle
- Pigeon's cry

Classifieds

FOR SALE
Divi Village OWNER SELLING
 C Bldg Elevator
 ocean /pool view
 week 8 - 3311 - 23 weeks
 \$11,200
 week 9 -3303-37 weeks
 \$17,999
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optymed@optonline.net

201430

FOR SALE BY OWNER
Dutch Village
 pool side 2 floor timeshare.
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 Full kitchen, 1/2 bath lr/ dr
 downstairs. Close to beach 1 Br
 can be separated.
 As studio/ efficiency. Call Bob at
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201404

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201409

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 both.
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2021435

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201410

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 OV -\$42k
 Plat Plus NY 52 OV- \$49k
 GOLD Season
 OS \$10k OV \$9500
 Oceanfront \$17k
 3 BEDRM OV \$17,000

202281

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

Platinum 2B OV \$18k
 Oceanfront PLAT \$29k
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 Gold season 2B OV \$9,000
 Oceanfront 2B \$14,500
 1B Oceanfront \$8,500

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201432

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(deeded)
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anthony@colettas.com
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201425

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all pool side
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 wk 9 # 135
 wk 10 #248
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 will discount multiple wks
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201443

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| | |
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| NOORD | 587-0009 |
| STA. CRUZ | 585-4710 |
| SAVANETA | 584-7000 |
| SAN NICOLAS | 584-5000 |
| FIRE DEPT. | 115 |
| FIRE DEPT. | 582-1108 |
| POLIS TIPLINE | 11141 |
| HOSPITAL | 527-4000 |
| AMBULANCE | 582-1234 |
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 S. NICOLAS: Centro Medico Tel: 584-5794

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| TAXI-TAS | 587-5900 |
| PROF. TAXI | 588-0035 |
| TAXI D.T.S. | 587-2300 |
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| Dutch Antilles | 588-1900 |
| Insel Air | 588-9314 |
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 Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

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 pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

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 Foundation

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Marriott Ocean Club
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 2 Br Platinum O.F. \$29K
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 Aruba Divi Phoenix
 Std wk 8 Room # 105 \$7K
 Std wk 9 Room # 1204 \$7K
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 Beach \$7K
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 3 br 3 bath wk 2/17 \$35K
 optional all inclusive
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201447

Age-old indicators under stress in high Bolivia

CARLOS VALDEZ
Associated Press
CUTUSUMA, Bolivia (AP) — For centuries, farmers in the fragile ecosystems of the high Andes have looked to the behavior of plants and animals to figure out what crops to grow and when. If reeds dried up in the late summer, rainless weather lay ahead, they believed. If the Andean fox made a howling appearance, abundant rains were thought sure to come.

Lake Titicaca's southern shore, the hills around him shining purple with flowering potato plants. Condori is a well-heeded font of ancestral knowledge for fellow farmers in these treeless climes frequently punished by frosts, hailstorms and drought. In the reeds on Titicaca's shore, he points out the height of the nests built by birds known as quilli quilli, a diminutive species similar to hummingbirds. Farmers

Landlocked and poor, Bolivia relies on a weak meteorological reporting system — with just 50 weather stations nationwide. Farming is also decidedly low tech in the mountainous part of the country. Ox-driven plows overwhelmingly outnumber tractors, a far cry from the eastern lowlands, where highly mechanized rice and soy farming yields the bulk of Bolivian agricultural exports. Condori says the "bio-in-



In this Feb. 14, 2014 photo, farmer and traditional meteorologist Francisco Condori measures rain water with a flow meter in Cutusuma, on Lake Titicaca's southern shore in Bolivia. Condori is a well-heeded font of ancestral knowledge for fellow farmers in these treeless climes frequently punished by frosts, hailstorms and drought.

Associated Press

But increasingly erratic weather that scientists attribute to global warming is rendering their age-old methods less reliable, endangering harvests in a region where life is hard in the best of times. Experts may scoff at such folk science, but the men and women who till the high mountain soil continue to swear by the traditional indicators, and Bolivia's government has even incorporated them into climate reports provided to farmers when it lacked modern data from meteorological stations. "They work for me," assures Francisco Condori, 45, after checking the previous night's precipitation on a homemade rain gauge on

have long used the locations of those nests as measures of how much the lake will rise and the amount of rainfall to come. "This year they initially built their nests about 40 centimeters (1.3 feet) above the water level. Then they dismantled them," Condori says. Twice, in fact, did the birds dismantle nests before finally reweaving them at nearly twice their original height. "We knew it was going to rain a lot," he says. And so it did, so much so that rivers in the Amazon basin have flooded their banks, submerging thousands of homes. That rain augured well, by contrast, for this Aymara community's potato crop.

dicators" he follows most closely have helped reduce agricultural losses 40 percent in Cutusuma and surrounding communities. Scientists, however, stress there are no empirical data to support the beliefs. The indicators are catalogued in what are known as Pachagrama, registries whose name derives from "Pachamama," the native Andean word for "Mother Earth." Communities compile and share the registry information, which is especially crucial from September to November when the dry season ends and farmers need to know how soon to plant, when the rains will begin and how long they will last. □

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Ice dancers, Drew Carey on ABC's 'Dancing'

NEW YORK (AP) — Olympic ice dancing gold medalists Charlie White and Meryl Davis will try a less slick surface and new partners as contestants in the next edition of ABC's "Dancing With the Stars."

ABC said Tuesday that game show host Drew Carey, actor Billy Dee Williams and long distance swimmer Diana Nyad will also be on the show, which begins a new season on March 17.

Other celebrity contestants include former pro hockey player Sean Avery, "Full House" actress Candace Cameron Bure, "Real Housewives of Atlanta" star NeNe Leakes, James Maslow of the TV show and music group Big Time Rush, actress Danica McKellar of



This Feb. 27, 2014 file photo shows Olympic gold medalist ice dancers Meryl Davis and Charlie White, left, at the Empire State Building in New York. Associated Press

"The Wonder Years" and "The West Wing," Paralympic athlete Amy Purdy and pop star Cody Simpson. □

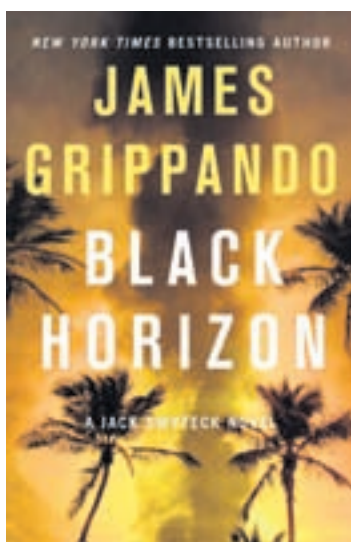
'Black Horizon' revisits oil spill nightmares

JENNIFER KAY, Associated Press

"Black Horizon," the eleventh book in James Grippando's Jack Swyteck series, revisits the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 and then does it one better, sending oil straight at the Florida Keys.

Intrepid criminal defense attorney Swyteck is on his honeymoon at a sleepy Keys resort when an oil rig explodes during a tropical storm in Cuban waters. In reality, exploratory oil drilling off Cuba's shores has come up dry, but Grippando conjures up a worst-case scenario in which an oil consortium is stacked by companies based in countries sometimes hostile to the U.S., the Cuban government won't allow the U.S. to offer its cleanup expertise and a gusher of oil can't be stopped.

Swyteck gets more than he bargained for when he agrees to take a Key West waitress' wrongful death lawsuit seeking compensation for her husband who



This book cover image released by Harper shows "Black Horizon," by James Grippando.

Associated Press

died aboard the rig. The courtroom drama quickly escalates into kidnapping, government secrecy and sabotage. Somewhere, a cheerful yet firm commercial is probably still airing to remind tourists that Florida's beaches are oil-free. Meanwhile, Grippando's fun legal thriller offers a breezy tour of the policies that shape life in South Florida and its Caribbean neighbors. □

Osaka to host all-star concert on Int'l Jazz Day

CHARLES J. GANS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Herbie Hancock reckons he's performed more often in Japan than in his hometown of Chicago during his professional career. The pianist will be back next month for an all-star concert at Osaka Castle Park highlighting the third annual International Jazz Day.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has chosen Osaka as the host city for International Jazz Day 2014, which will be celebrated around the world on April 30.

Hancock, a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, says it's an opportunity to show appreciation for Japanese jazz fans who have been among the world's greatest supporters of the music. He first performed in Japan with Miles Davis' quintet in 1964, and has toured there with his own electric and acoustic groups for decades. "Japanese audiences are very loyal," said Hancock, interviewed ahead of Tuesday's official announcement of the International Jazz Day program. "In Japan, art is really placed on a high level, and jazz is really honored and accepted as being a fine music — much more in comparison to the States." Osaka was chosen as the host city because its jazz scene dates back to the 1920s and remains lively today, said Tom Carter, president of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, who is partnering with UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova to present International Jazz Day.

"Osaka has played a leading role in the early days of jazz in Japan and in Asia," Carter said.

After American and Filipino bands introduced jazz to Japan, Japanese musicians began playing jazz in Osaka's dance halls. They included trumpeter Fumio Nanri, who toured the U.S. and was dubbed the "Satchmo of Japan" by Louis Armstrong.



In this Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013, file photo, U.S. musician Herbie Hancock performs during a concert, part of the 10th edition of the Panama Jazz Festival, in Panama City.

Associated Press

During World War II, the government unsuccessfully tried to ban jazz, but the music flourished during the American occupation.

"I was introduced to jazz while playing in a dance hall as a teenager during the American occupation by a Japanese jazz fan and record collector. He played Teddy Wilson's 'Sweet Lorraine,' and I was hooked," said pianist-composer Toshiko Akiyoshi, who will be performing with her husband, saxophonist-flutist Lew Tabackin, at the Osaka concert.

Akiyoshi, who came to the U.S. in 1956 to study jazz, gained worldwide acclaim first as a bebop pianist and later as the leader of her own big band, often writing compositions that drew on traditional Japanese music. The International Jazz Day celebrations will kick off at the Osaka School of Music with a daylong series of educational programs, panel discussions, film screenings and dance performances. The festivities conclude with a free outdoor concert for up to 12,000 people in the park set against the backdrop of historic Osaka Castle. It will be live streamed worldwide.

The lineup includes such jazz stars as Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Kenny Garrett, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Gregory Porter, Roy Hargrove, Marcus Miller, Esperanza Spalding, Earl Klugh and John Scofield.

Veteran Japanese trumpeter Terumasa Hino, who will be among the perform-

ers, hopes Jazz Day will rekindle interest in jazz.

"I hope that this year's event in Osaka provides a spark for young Japanese people to get to know jazz and enjoy it," he said.

Hancock said International Jazz Day has "gone beyond our wildest expectations" since its launch in 2012.

UNESCO said Jazz Day events were held last year in all 196 member countries despite political, financial and security challenges. The organizers reached out beyond official organizations to work with hotels and restaurants, embassies, schools and musicians.

In Damascus, Syrian musicians gathered to screen the global concert live from last year's host city of Istanbul, Turkey. In the new country of South Sudan, a cafe in the capital, Juba, organized a jazz performance. In the Pacific Island nation of Nauru, a radio station broadcast jazz throughout the day.

"I was deeply moved talking to many of these courageous people who are trying to keep music alive," said Mika Shino, the Monk Institute's Director, International Jazz Day Program and Global Outreach. "So many people, in places like Niger, Mali, Myanmar, Iran and Iraq, thanked us for recognizing them as someone worthy of partnership. They get plenty of calls for interviews to talk about poverty, conflict and war, but never about including them in a global celebration." □

Ellen's Oscar celeb selfie a landmark media moment

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ellen DeGeneres' celeb-studded selfie from the most-watched Oscars telecast in a decade was a landmark social media moment at a time online conversation is boosting television viewership and vice versa.

It's also a murky example of what is or isn't product placement in a hyper-marketed world. Would the world's most retweeted photo have been shot by an iPhone if Samsung hadn't been a commercial sponsor of the Academy Awards?

An estimated 43 million people watched "12 Years a Slave" win the Oscar for best picture on Sunday night. It was the most-watched Academy Awards since 2004, when "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" was the best picture. And it was the most popular entertainment event on TV since the "Friends" finale that year. The Oscars are generally the most-watched TV event of the year after the Super Bowl.



Kevin Spacey, from left, Angelina Jolie, Julia Roberts, Brad Pitt, Jennifer Lawrence, Ellen DeGeneres and Jared Leto join other celebrities for a "selfie" during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday, March 2, 2014, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

Oscar night was also big for Jimmy Kimmel. The ABC late-night star drew just under 7 million viewers for his post-Oscars special, the biggest audience he's ever gotten on ABC, despite starting at 12:42 a.m. on the East Coast. The ratings provide further evidence of how big

event programming is a growth engine for broadcast networks, in large part because of fans watching the event and conversing with friends on tablets and smartphones. Twitter said that some 14.7 million tweets mentioning the Oscars or prominent actors and films were sent out during the Sunday night telecast, and Facebook said there were 25.4 million interactions about the show.

Social media was clearly a driving force Sunday and is why live events on networks "have become basically the currency," co-producer Neil Meron told The Associated Press.

"What it's all about right now is creating a conversation, and social media allows for the conversation as it's happening," he said. No social media moment was bigger than when host DeGeneres briefly caused Twitter to crash after going into the audience and asking Bradley Cooper to take a picture with several other stars crowding around. Besides Cooper and DeGeneres, Meryl Streep, Jennifer Lawrence, Kevin Spacey, Julia Roberts, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt also crowded into the frame. She asked viewers to help her set a retweet record, and they quickly complied.

By Monday afternoon, it had been retweeted some 2.8 million times, shattering the previous record of 810,000 retweets for the photo of President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama hugging after the 2012 election. Twitter was humming at 254,644 tweets per minute after DeGeneres' request, and the company said the crush disrupted service for 20 minutes.

DeGeneres handed a Samsung device to Cooper to take the selfie. Since the Oscars host's Twitter posts from backstage included shots from an iPhone, Samsung doesn't seem to be her usual smartphone of choice.

Samsung, however, was a big presence at the Oscars besides being a commercial sponsor. The company gave its phones to student presenters and encouraged them to tweet and post on Instagram with them. Dozens of Samsung phones, tablets and TVs were used to make a digital photo display in the backstage green room. ABC said Samsung did not pay specifically for use of the camera in DeGeneres' selfie segment and the company wasn't explicitly named on the air as the stunt unfolded, but it is a noticeably larger device than an iPhone. Spokes-

woman Nicole Marostica said once producers decided to do the segment, it made more sense to use a Samsung product because the company was an Oscars sponsor.

"They were just lucky beneficiaries of the whole thing," Marostica said.

Samsung said Monday that it was donating \$1.5 million each to DeGeneres' favorite charities, St. Jude's and the Humane Society. The company, in a statement, did not directly address its role in seeing that its phone got the starring role.

"Ellen was given a choice of what she wanted to do," said Oscars co-producer Craig Zadan. "One moment she wanted to do the iPhone, the next moment the Samsung. I think it was nothing except it was an arbitrary last-minute decision, let's go with the Samsung. Believe me, everything was given a lot of thought. The telephone was not given any thought."

Even more spontaneous was that galaxy of stars surrounding Ellen in the selfie shot. It was just supposed to be Streep, Zadan said. "I don't think that Ellen even knew that all of those other stars would get out of their seats and jump in and be in the picture," he said.

Use of the Samsung phone "is a wonderful example of product placement," said Tim Calkins, marketing professor at the Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern University.

"It worked because it's not a formal placement," Calkins said. "The best product placements seem natural and this seemed natural." Samsung is the worldwide leader in smartphones but trails Apple in the United States, and the company has been aggressively going after the U.S. market. Oddly, the audience snapshot wasn't a new element for DeGeneres. When she hosted the Oscars in 2007, she went into the audience and asked filmmaker Steven Spielberg to snap a picture of her with Clint Eastwood, saying she wanted to use it on Myspace. □

John Travolta apologizes to Idina Menzel for flub

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — John Travolta is apologizing to Tony Award winner Idina Menzel for mangling the pronunciation of her name on the Oscars telecast. Travolta says in a statement released Tuesday he's been beating himself up all day and came to the conclusion Menzel would counsel: Let it go. On Sunday night's Academy Awards, Travolta took the stage and introduced Menzel but seemed to say "Adele Dazeem" instead. An estimated 43 million people were watching, and social media has been mocking him relentlessly since then. Menzel played Maureen Johnson in "Rent" on-



Presenter John Travolta speaks during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday, March 2, 2014, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

stage and on screen and Elphaba in "Wicked." She seemed unperturbed by the flub as she sang out "Let It Go," from the animated film "Frozen." □

Terms of Our Surrender



ROSS DOUTHAT
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It now seems certain that before too many years elapse, the Supreme Court will be forced to acknowledge the logic of its own jurisprudence on same-sex marriage and redefine marriage to include gay couples in all 50 states.

Once this happens, the national debate essentially will be finished, but the country will remain divided, with a substantial minority of Americans, most of them religious, still committed to the older view of marriage.

So what then? One possibility is that this division will recede into the cultural background, with marriage joining the long list of topics on which Americans disagree without making a political issue out of it.

In this scenario, religious conservatives would essentially be left to promote their view of wedlock within their own institutions, as a kind of dissenting subculture emphasizing gender differences and procreation, while the wider culture declares that love and commitment are enough to make a marriage. And where conflicts arise - in a case where, say, a Mormon caterer or a Catholic photographer objected to working at a same-sex wedding - gay rights supporters would heed the advice of gay marriage's intellectual progenitor, Andrew Sullivan, and let the dissenters opt out "in the name of their freedom - and ours."

But there's another possibility, in which the oft-invoked analogy between opposition to gay marriage and support for segregation in the 1960s South is pushed to its logical public-policy conclusion. In this scenario, the unwilling photographer or caterer would be treated like the proprietor of a segregated lunch counter and face fines or lose his business - which is the intent of recent legal actions against a wedding photographer in New Mexico, a florist in Washington state and a baker in Colorado.

Meanwhile, pressure would be brought to bear wherever the religious subculture brushed up against state power. Religious-affiliated adoption agencies would be closed if they declined to place children with same-sex couples. (This has happened in Massachusetts and Illinois.) Organizations and businesses that promoted the older definition of marriage would face constant procedural harassment, along the lines suggested by the mayors who battled with Chick-fil-A. And, eventually, religious schools and colleges would receive the

same treatment as racist holdouts like Bob Jones University, losing access to public funds and seeing their tax-exempt status revoked.

In the past, this constant-pressure scenario has seemed the less-likely one, since Americans are better at agreeing to disagree than the culture war would suggest. But it feels a little bit more likely after last week's "debate" in Arizona, over a bill that was designed to clarify whether existing religious freedom protections can be invoked by defendants like the florist or the photographer.

If you don't recognize my description of the bill, then you probably followed the press coverage, which was mendacious and hysterical - evincing no familiarity with the legal issues, and endlessly parroting the line that the bill would institute "Jim Crow" for gays. (Never mind that in Arizona it is currently legal to discriminate based on sexual orientation - and mass discrimination isn't exactly breaking out.) Allegedly sensible centrists compared the bill's supporters to segregationist politicians, liberals invoked the Bob Jones precedent to dismiss religious-liberty concerns, and Republican politicians behaved as though the law had been written by David Duke.

What makes this response particularly instructive is that such bills have been seen, in the past, as a way for religious conservatives to negotiate surrender - to accept same-sex marriage's inevitability while carving out protections for dissent. But now, apparently, the official line is that you bigots don't get to negotiate anymore. Which has a certain bracing logic. If your only goal is ensuring that support for traditional marriage diminishes as rapidly as possible, applying constant pressure to religious individuals and institutions will probably do the job. Already, my fellow Christians are divided over these issues, and we'll be more divided the more pressure we face. The conjugal, male-female view of marriage is too theologically rooted to disappear, but its remaining adherents can be marginalized, set against one other, and encouraged to conform.

I am being descriptive here, rather than self-pitying. Christians had plenty of opportunities - thousands of years' worth - to treat gay people with real charity, and far too often chose intolerance. (And still do, in many instances and places.) So being marginalized, being sued, losing tax-exempt status - this will be uncomfortable, but we should keep perspective and remember our sins, and nobody should call it persecution.

But it's still important for the winning side to recognize its power. We are not really having an argument about same-sex marriage anymore, and on the evidence of Arizona, we're not having a negotiation. Instead, all that's left is the timing of the final victory - and for the defeated to find out what settlement the victors will impose. □



Trouble Putin on the Brakes



DAVID BROOKS
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Even cynics like to feel moral. Even hard-eyed men who play power politics need to feel that their efforts are part of a great historic mission. So as he has been throwing his weight around the world, Vladimir Putin has been careful to quote Russian philosophers from the 19th and 20th centuries like Nikolai Berdyaev, Vladimir Solovyov and Ivan Ilyin.

Putin doesn't only quote these guys; he wants others to read them.

As Maria Snegovaya pointed out recently in *The Washington Post*, the Kremlin recently assigned three philosophic books to regional governors: Berdyaev's "The Philosophy of Inequality," Solovyov's "Justification of the Good" and Ilyin's "Our Tasks."

Putin was personally involved in getting Ilyin's remains re-buried back in Russian soil. In 2009, Putin went to consecrate the grave himself.

The event sent him into a nationalistic fervor. "It's a crime when someone only begins talking about the separation of Russia and the Ukraine," he said on that day.

To enter into the world of Putin's favorite philosophers is to enter a world full of melodrama, mysticism and grandiose eschatological visions.

"We trust and are confident that the hour will come when Russia will rise from disintegration and humiliation and begin an epoch of new development and great-

ness," Ilyin wrote.

Three great ideas run through this work. The first is Russian exceptionalism: the idea that Russia has its own unique spiritual status and purpose. The second is devotion to the Orthodox faith. The third is belief in autocracy. Mashed together, these philosophers point to a Russia that is a quasi-theocratic nationalist autocracy destined to play a culminating role on the world stage. These philosophers often argued that the rationalistic, materialistic West was corrupting the organic spiritual purity of Russia.

"The West exported this anti-Christian virus to Russia," Ilyin wrote, "Having lost our bond with God and the Christian tradition, mankind has been morally blinded, gripped by materialism, irrationalism and nihilism."

You can hear echoes of this moralistic strain in Putin's own speeches, especially when he defends his regime's attitude toward gays and the role of women. Citing Berdyaev, he talks about defending traditional values to ward off moral chaos. He says he is defending the distinction between good and evil, which has been lost in the outside world.

Most important, these philosophers had epic visions of Russia's role in the world. Solovyov argued that because Russia is located between the Catholic West and the non-Christian East, it has a historic mission to lead the way to human unification. Russia would transcend secularism and atheism and create a unified spiritual kingdom. "The Russian messianic conception," Berdyaev wrote, "always exalted Russia as a country that would help to solve the problems of humanity."

Russia is frequently seen as a besieged fortress. The West is thought to be rotten to the core and weak yet so powerful that it can be blamed for everything that goes wrong.

Russia has immeasurable spiritual potential yet is forever plagued by a lack of self-respect, lack of self-assertion and unmet poten-

tial.

In his 1948 essay, "What Dismemberment of Russia Entails for the World," Ilyin describes the Russian people as the "core of everything European-Asian and, therefore, of universal equilibrium." Yet the West, he argues, is trying to "divide the united Russian broom into twigs to break these twigs one by one." The West is driven by "a plan of hatred and lust for power."

All of this adds up to a highly charged and assertive messianic ideology.

If Putin took it all literally, he'd be a Russian ayatollah. Up until now, he hasn't taken it literally. His regime has used this nationalism to mobilize public opinion and to explain itself to itself.

But it has tamped down every time this nationalistic ideology threatens to upend the status quo.

The danger is that Russia is now involved in a dispute in Ukraine that touches and activates the very core of this touchy messianism. The tiger of quasi-religious nationalism, which Putin has been riding, may now take control.

That would make it very hard for Putin to stop in this conflict where rational calculus would tell him to stop. Up until now, we have not been in a Huntingtonian conflict of civilizations with Russia.

But with passions aroused and philosophic zealotry at full boil, it may temporarily appear that we are.

The implication for Western policymakers is that we may not be dealing with a "normal" regime, which can be manipulated by economic and diplomatic carrots and sticks.

Threatening to take away inclusion in the Group of 8 or freeze some assets may become irrelevant because the Russian regime will have moved up to a different level.

The Russian nation may be motivated by a deep, creedal ideology that has been wafting through the culture for centuries and has now found an unlikely, cynical and cold-eyed host. □

Stunning Supercars Unveiled At Geneva Motor Show

JOHN HEILPRIN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Dreaming is what most of us who lack the cash needed to buy a supercar can still afford to do.

So when an auto show rolls around offering a look at some of the most stunning examples of auto art and engineering, it's time to indulge — even just for a moment.

Here's a glance at four of the most striking new vehicles on display at the Geneva Motor Show, which opens to the public Thursday and runs through March 16.

FERRARI CALIFORNIA T

Should you need to accelerate from 0-100 kph (0-62mph) in 3.6 seconds and stylishly cruise at top speeds in excess of 314 kph (195 mph), all with the top down while integrating your iPhone into the dashboard, the new turbo-charged convertible with the prancing horse may be just the ticket. And, in keeping with its West Coast sensibility, the sleek California T hardtop convertible, officially unveiled in Geneva, also is 15 percent more energy efficient than its predecessor Califor-



The New Ferrari California T is on display at the 84. Geneva International Motor Show in Geneva, Switzerland, Tuesday, March 4, 2014.

(AP Photo/ Keystone,Sandro Campardo)

nia model — and the roof closes in 14 seconds. Prices expected to be comparable to the previous model, starting around 187,000 euros (\$257,000).

LAMBORGHINI HURACAN

A replacement for the Gallardo, Lamborghini's top-selling model of all time,

this sleek missile has new aluminum and carbon fiber components and a top speed of 325 kph (202 mph). The Huracan, Spanish for hurricane, transmits power to all four wheels, and has a new 7-speed dual clutch transmission and electronically controlled shocks. If you blink,

you might miss its stops and starts: the Huracan has huge carbon-ceramic brakes and a V10 engine that can go from 0-200 kph (0-124mph) in 9.9 seconds, or 0-100 kph (0-62mph) in 3.2 seconds. The Huracan will be delivered starting in spring 2014 to anyone with 169,500 euros (\$233,000) to

spare, not including tax.

MASERATI ALFIERI

It's a concept model, so you can't buy one just yet, but this car — with its metallic blue accents — would be for those who may want an arresting sports coupe that seems to capture both the future of the Maserati brand and the racing spirit of its by-gone decades. Designed with a V8 engine, six-speed gearbox and special exhaust, the Alfieri has a sloping exterior with a long angling nose that makes for a bullet-like sleekness. Its suspended dashboard, brakes, tailpipes and air ducts are accented in sky blue. Stay tuned for production, and pricing.

ALFA ROMEO 4C SPIDER

Another new model unveiled in Geneva, this one is a convertible that is scheduled to go on sale in Europe next year. For sporty drivers who need to accelerate from 0-100 kph (0-62mph) in 4.5 seconds. Similar to the 4C hardtop, but with a canvas roof and carbon fiber rollover bars, it would have a top speed of more than 249 kph (155 mph). Pricing not yet announced. □



The new Lamborghini Huracan is on display at the 84. Geneva International Motor Show in Geneva, Switzerland, Tuesday, March 4, 2014.

(AP Photo/Keystone,Martial Trezzini)